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*United States
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***Boys' and Girls'
4-H Club Work***

under the Smith-Lever Act

1914-1924



FOUR-H CLUB WORK was organized by the extension forces to teach young people agriculture and to obtain their help and cooperation in farm and home improvement. The large enrollment of boys and girls and the very large percentage completing their projects are especially gratifying.

The results accomplished by these boys and girls lead me to believe that more of the energy of the extension forces may well be directed to work with them. The present enrollment can be materially increased if the energies of the extension forces are concentrated on the selection and training of local leaders. The 4-H club work is such an efficient agency in training for rural citizenship that we should have little difficulty in obtaining the required number of adults to organize and direct the work properly. Of the 5,000,000 boys and girls who have been enrolled in 4-H clubs since 1914, a million or more should be available as a source from which leaders may be selected.

Most effective work in the improvement of farm and home practices and the upbuilding of rural communities can be done through increased club membership provided with earnest and enthusiastic local leaders.

C. W. WARBURTON,
Director of Extension Work.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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BOYS' AND GIRLS' 4-H CLUB WORK UNDER THE SMITH-LEVER ACT, 1914-1924

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INTRODUCTION

In the 10-year period following the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, 1915-1924 inclusive, more than 5,000,000 farm boys and girls have been engaged in 4-H¹ club work. As club members, these boys and girls pledged themselves to carry out a farm or home enterprise using the best practices developed by the State agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture. Under the supervision of State and county extension agents of these cooperating institutions, they undertook voluntarily to teach themselves, their friends, and their neighbors by actual demonstrations the value of such practices. In so doing, they have made a genuine and substantial contribution to the improvement of American farm life (fig. 1).

Some idea of the proportions to which this work has grown may be gained from the fact that 510,355 different boys and girls were enrolled in the 4-H clubs in 1924, their demonstrations of better practices covering a wide variety of farm and farm-home interests. Of this number, 283,283 boys and girls, or about 56 per cent of those enrolled, completed all phases of the various projects undertaken and submitted written reports on the results obtained.

How generally 4-H club work has become accepted as an essential feature of cooperative extension work is seen in the fact that of the

¹The term 4-H signifies the four things which must be trained by the boy and girl to insure success in club undertakings—head, heart, health, and hands. The mind, or head, of the boy and girl must be trained to think, plan, and reason, and the heart to be kindly and sympathetic toward the work and toward associates, so that all may work together; the health must be improved and kept good for efficiency and enjoyment; and the hands must be trained to be skillful. The symbol of the 4-H club is the four-leaf clover containing an H on each leaflet, the clover signifying the purpose for which the first clubs were created—soil conservation.

3,419 county extension agents reporting in 1924, 2,753 had 4-H clubs organized to assist them in their work. In the supervision and direction of these clubs, the agents were greatly assisted by 37,905 local leaders, many of whom voluntarily offered their aid. These local leaders were men and women of the various communities in which 4-H clubs had been established. Much of the success of 4-H club work in 1924 and in previous years is credited to them. There has been a marked and continuous increase in the number of local leaders during the 10-year period, indicating the value rural people place on 4-H clubs as a means of training young people of the farm to make use of the economic and social opportunities of the country.



FIG. 1.—This club boy, under the leadership of the county agricultural agent, won the Pomona Grange silver cup for the best corn-club work in Kent County, Md., three years in succession. His record yield was 130 bushels of dry shelled corn per acre. During the past 10 years more than 5,000,000 farm boys and girls have made a genuine and substantial contribution to the improvement of American farm life through the demonstration of the best farm and home practices

ORGANIZATION

Boys' and girls' club work is carried on as a part of the general extension program organized for the purpose of assisting farmers and their families to bring about immediate improvement of farm and home life. It is part of the unified effort of men, women, boys, and girls focused on the common problem. The extension director, through his counsel and guidance, supervises the work in the State. The State county agent leaders, State home demonstration leaders, and State club leaders—or State agents, as they are called in some States—train county extension agents in the proper method of conducting the work and coordinating it with the extension program in the county. The specialists working out from the State agricultural college prepare the subject matter, train local leaders, outline demon-

strations for the demonstration teams, and judge club exhibits at fairs and exhibitions. The county agricultural agents, home demonstration agents, and county club agents enlist the aid of local leaders, conduct training schools, organize club tours, direct exhibits at county and State fairs, and act as general advisers and directors of the club organization in the county.

As previously stated, the county extension agents are aided materially by their local leaders. These leaders enroll club members, help them to obtain material for demonstrations, and meet with the clubs to study the instructions for conducting demonstrations. They aid club members in training demonstration teams, direct club tours, and accompany the boys and girls to camps and short courses. They assist club members to report on their projects and give the inspiration and guidance that are necessary to the making of a successful 4-H club. The State club leader and his assistants are the coordinating force of the extension service for all those who deal with young people in an extension program. General interest of all extension workers and those voluntarily cooperating with them in boys' and girls' club work made possible the results obtained in 1924 and previous years.

SCOPE

In 1924 the 4-H clubs represented in variety of interest practically every farm and farm-home activity. Each succeeding year the importance of the farm boys and girls as agencies for bringing about the introduction of improved practices has steadily increased (fig. 2). The enrollment of girls has been larger than that of boys, more than 58 per cent of the total number of club members enrolled in 1924 being girls. Of the 300,545 different girls enrolled in one or more of the various club projects, 173,545 were enrolled in some phase of clothing construction, of whom 100,702 reported the making of 321,995 garments and articles of various kinds. Interest in food



FIG. 2.—A former club girl who is using her club experience and extension teaching in managing her own home. Club girls have made a material contribution to the improvement of farm-home living conditions through making their homes more convenient, attractive, and generally satisfying. They are developing a desirable, wholesome attitude toward home work and are learning to solve in a natural and practical way the economic problems which every home maker must meet.

preservation is indicated by the enrollment of 83,419 girls and 726 boys in food-preservation clubs. A total of 43,971 girls and 482 boys reported the canning, preserving, and pickling of 2,562,641 quarts of fruit, vegetables, and meat. The preparation and serving of wholesome, well-cooked food to the farm family attracted 102,186 girls to food-preparation clubs. Although the primary interest of the future home makers is in clothing, food preservation, food preparation, and home management, the economic side of farm life was not neglected by them. There were 51,921 girls enrolled in poultry clubs and 7,224 in dairy clubs. To make the home more attractive and its surroundings more satisfying, 33,667 girls were enrolled in projects for the beautification of home grounds.

The high wages in the cities and the depressed condition of agriculture in some sections have caused an abnormal movement of young men and women to the manufacturing centers. The younger boy on the farm has been called upon to make a full hand during the busy season. The shortage of farm labor has had no injurious effect on 4-H club work. It has, in fact, increased the enrollment because parents felt that the boys must be interested in the farm if they were to remain there. Parents with large farms and insufficient help have made sacrifices that their sons might attend club meetings, care for the acre of corn, or feed the litter of pigs.

In 1924, 209,810 boys were enrolled in one or more club projects, of whom 116,947 completed all demonstrations and made written reports of the year's results. This was a very wholesome growth over the previous year when 187,277 boys were enrolled and 99,222 completed their demonstrations.

The demonstration projects undertaken by farm boys during the year were limited only by the problems of the farm itself. A total of 30,249 boys, or more than one-seventh of all boys enrolled in club work, were enrolled in corn clubs. The 16,793 boys and 530 girls reporting cultivated 26,036 acres of corn and grew 812,238 bushels. In home gardening, 21,280 boys were enrolled, of whom 13,668 completed their demonstrations. Potato clubs producing high-grade table stock and certified seed had a total enrollment during the year of 12,584 boys, of whom 8,467 completed their demonstrations and together with 1,255 girls grew 372,940 bushels of potatoes. In the South where cotton offers such excellent opportunity for demonstration and profit, 16,504 boys were enrolled and the 9,666 boy and 163 girl club members reporting produced 11,042,698 pounds of seed cotton.

In livestock, poultry clubs had the largest enrollment of boys during 1924. In poultry demonstrations, 38,541 boys were enrolled, of whom 21,842 completed their enterprises. Pig clubs had an enrollment of 34,448 boys, of whom 19,115 completed their year's work. In dairying, 14,973 boys were enrolled and raised a dairy calf or purebred heifer.

CHIEF VALUE EDUCATIONAL

In boys' and girls' 4-H club work the attention of farm boys and girls in groups is focused upon the community extension program in an interesting, challenging way and their active participation enlisted to make their own community a better place in which to live.

Real life situations are uncovered involving issues affecting their own interests—present and future—together with those of their community as a whole. When such issues seem vital, maximum interest is enkindled and a community consciousness, accompanied by a sense of community responsibility, is developed in a natural, wholesome way.

At the time country boys and girls meet to form a club, they are told that they, as a group, may develop their own club program for the year (fig. 3). If there are 10 or more boys and girls, two or more groups may be formed. However, before any group choices are made, the attention of the group is focused by the adult leaders on the general community program and the different kinds of work



FIG. 3.—Girls' club developing a program for the year. The development of such programs brings boys and girls into responsible contact with the live problems of the community and gives them a part in their solution. The main value of 4-H club work to young farm people therefore lies in its educational influence rather than its immediate financial returns

listed are fully discussed. If they are interested in following some project included in that program, as, for example, improving the livestock of the community, beautifying the home and community grounds, or raising the general home standards of the community, three advantages follow:

- (1) Their desire to serve their own community is awakened in keeping with its present recognized needs. A valuable contact with a larger group is realized, in so far as a community consciousness and a sense of community responsibility are developed.

- (2) They can then take part at general community meetings in discussion and in other activities which pertain to their own club work as it relates to the carrying out of the general community program in which their parents and neighbors are also vitally interested. In other words, a new and interesting partnership with their parents and neighbors is made possible.

(3) They may undergo a valuable experience in giving up some immediate interest for the larger one of trying to make the general home life of the community in which they live as fine as possible.

If, on the other hand, they are not interested in choosing as their major club activity a phase of the general community program, they are allowed to take up some other phase of agriculture or home making, provided it is an economically sound undertaking for that community. If one or two of the young people of the group are not interested in the choice of the majority, they are allowed to pursue their individual interest; but, as members of the group, they are encouraged to take up the activity selected by the majority, if it is a practical thing for them to do.

The club production of these boys and girls has had a sufficient money value to pay the entire cost of such production and leave a liberal margin for the club member for his labor. Nevertheless, this actual production and the money value of such production are mainly significant in that they emphasize the diligence and care exercised by club members in developing better practices in agriculture and home economics. The main values of 4-H club work are in its educational influence and benefits to the boy or girl rather than in the immediate financial returns. It encourages intelligent effort. It points to the better way. It adds zest, inspiration, and enthusiasm to every task about the farm and in the home. It teaches cooperation and develops leadership and community responsibility.

FUNDS EXPENDED ²

The funds expended on boys' and girls' club projects during the first 10 years since the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, are indicative of the wide interest and confidence in the farm boy and girl. (Table 1.)

TABLE 1.—*Total expenditure of funds from all sources for boys' and girls' 4-H club work in States for years ended June 30, 1915, to June 30, 1924¹*

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1914-15.....	\$162,448.27	1919-20.....	\$883,615.86
1915-16.....	231,227.16	1920-21.....	923,982.19
1916-17.....	319,556.91	1921-22.....	1,054,388.85
1917-18.....	669,666.18	1922-23.....	991,179.78
1918-19.....	921,621.38	1923-24.....	991,490.45

¹This statement does not include the cost of administering the club project by the Office of Cooperative Extension Work of the United States Department of Agriculture.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS

From their inception the development in numbers and variety of interest of the 4-H clubs has been in close relation to economic trends on the farm and has been responsive to the economic needs of the farm home. This ready response to existing conditions has emphasized the practical value of these clubs as agencies for rural improvement. Consequently, as a direct result of economic condi-

²Funds for extension work are appropriated for fiscal years ending on June 30, whereas extension agents are required to prepare their reports for calendar years. For this reason all statements of funds expended are for fiscal years and of results of work done for calendar years.

tions during the 10-year period, 1915 to 1924 inclusive, the enrollment in certain projects decreased and in others gradually increased (see Table 6, page 54). For example, the enrollment in corn clubs decreased materially in 1919. Although the price of corn was satisfactory in 1919, other farm enterprises were more profitable and consequently more attractive to boys. During 1920 and 1921 the price of corn was low and the results obtained in feeding it were also unprofitable.

Beef-feeding work has grown slowly but steadily. It was not affected materially by the unsettled conditions during the war. Poultry work has had only one year of serious depression, which was caused by the economic conditions of 1920. Food-preservation work was considerably curtailed in 1920. Bread clubs, except in 1919 and 1920, have increased in enrollment each year. The results obtained with clothing have been outstanding and the work has grown steadily and consistently since its introduction.

In gardening, the extension service was called upon during the pre-war period to give assistance in organizing young people in cities and towns. After the value of club work for the purpose had been demonstrated, local city public-school systems or social agencies took it over. The extension service then withdrew from the urban field and restricted its assistance to the rural sections with a resulting decrease in the total enrollment in garden clubs.

On the whole, the number of club members carrying on demonstrations has steadily increased since 1920 and in 1924 had almost reached the number enrolled during the temporary inflation of the war period.

HEARTY PUBLIC SUPPORT

The rapid growth and development of the boys' and girls' club movement in the United States have been due to the enthusiastic cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges, farm and business organizations, and citizens' associations. The results are seen in the organization of a group of more than 510,000 boys and girls conducting nearly a million demonstrations on the farms and in the homes, in which one or more of the better practices in agriculture and home economics are tried out under farm conditions. It is possible for neighbors and friends to observe in their own neighborhood the results of the application of a given practice. If the number of club demonstrations which are being carried on were distributed so that no farm would have more than one, a demonstration would be in progress on approximately one out of every seven farms in the United States.

The interest of the rural press in the 4-H club movement is indicative of the place that young people occupy in an agricultural program. Several leading farm papers have devoted entire issues to boys' and girls' club activities; and some have maintained loan funds, from which club members could borrow money to buy items needed in carrying on demonstrations, such as a purebred pig or calf, quality seed, or canning equipment. A few of the larger farm papers and one of the larger metropolitan papers have encouraged club work by offering prize trips to short courses at State agricultural colleges. The daily newspapers and metropolitan publications have featured 4-H clubs in news columns and editorials commending the efforts

of country boys and girls and their achievements in farm and home improvement.

Farm organizations, such as the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Grange, have been a powerful factor in promoting the demonstration work carried on by boys and girls. The American Farm Bureau Federation has made boys' and girls' club work a part of its regular program in the county. The National Grange employs a secretary who devotes full time to young farm people. The officers of these national associations have brought this work forcibly to the attention of local organizations, through which the leadership for clubs has been obtained. The National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, composed of business men and farmers, has done much in augmenting the 4-H club movement through coordinating the efforts put forth by all interests outside of the extension service.

County fairs, State fairs, interstate fairs, and expositions have reorganized their premium lists so that the exhibits, demonstrations, and judging contests of the 4-H clubs are allowed a leading part in the program. Many county fairs and a large number of State fairs have been conducting camps for club boys and girls during the fair. Young people are quartered on the fairgrounds during the entire week. They look after their exhibits, conduct demonstrations, and take part in judging contests. The interstate fairs at Springfield, Mass., and Sioux City, Iowa, have provided camp equipment for the club boys and girls from several States. Separate sections have been provided for club exhibits and properly equipped booths and halls for demonstrations. In addition the exposition at Springfield has provided for the older boys a training school in leadership under the direction of the State club leaders. The International Livestock Exposition, the National Dairy Show, the Pacific International Exposition, the Junior Livestock Show of St. Paul, and other interstate and national expositions have cooperated in furthering extension work with junior farm people. State and county leaders have found such expositions a satisfactory place for conducting conferences on boys' and girls' club work.

AID FROM MANY ASSOCIATIONS

Breed associations have recognized the club movement as a worthwhile factor in the introduction of purebred stock on farms. Two of the dairy breed associations have employed men who devote full time to cooperation with extension agents. Representatives of these associations have prepared circulars, located purebred stock, assisted State and county breed associations in locating leadership for dairy clubs, and in addition have provided prizes to be offered at State and interstate fairs.

Commercial clubs have worked with county extension agents in providing funds to be lent to boys and girls to purchase animals and equipment for demonstrations and prizes for outstanding results. Civic lunch clubs, such as the Kiwanis, the Rotary, and the Lions, have cooperated by providing summer camps for club members. They have entertained the young people on achievement day and have provided automobiles for club tours. The larger business organizations, such as the National Bankers' Association and the railroad companies, have made boys' and girls' club work one of the

projects to be encouraged and assisted. Railroads have worked with boys and girls, through the extension agents, by providing trips to short courses and, in some cases, have given very material aid to club members by bringing in and distributing purebred seed, hatching eggs, and poultry.

HOW BANKERS HAVE HELPED

The local banker has been a large factor in the development of the club movement. His intimate knowledge of economic conditions in the territory surrounding his bank has enabled him to see clearly the needs of the community. Every year local banks set aside large sums of money to be lent to club members to purchase cattle, poultry, certified seed, or other things required in their club demonstrations (fig. 4). They have found that young people engaged in club work, although immature, are capable of assuming an obligation in the way of a note and paying it when due. Local bankers have also acted as local leaders for clubs. In several States the State bankers' association has provided the State club leader with sufficient funds to purchase 4-H emblems for each boy and girl in the State completing a club project.



FIG. 4.—A club boy typical of many boys and girls who have borrowed money at their local banks for use in purchasing poultry, cattle, certified seed, or other things required in their club demonstrations

The earnestness with which the 4-H club member undertakes a demonstration of the better practices in agriculture and home economics has attracted the attention of citizens in all walks of life. There is now no lack of support.

EARLY HISTORY OF CLUB MOVEMENT

AGRICULTURE DEMANDS RECOGNITION

In the last decade of the nineteenth century, there developed among the people of the United States a demand for the introduction into the rural schools of subjects that would educate in the direction of

appreciation of rural life and its opportunities, instead of confining the teaching to studies that ignored the country and directed the pupils' attention to occupations of the town and city. Aggressive educators began by introducing nature study into the curriculum of the public schools. City and town schools led the movement by taking up the growing of plants, the study of flowers, the identification of trees, and the development of school gardens. The rural schools began their work in agricultural instruction by introducing the subjects and methods of teaching used in the urban schools.

In one of the early leaflets issued by Cornell University, Liberty Hyde Bailey, speaking of nature study, said:

Why is the college of agriculture at Cornell University interesting itself in this work? It is trying to help the farmer and it begins with the most teachable point—the child. The district school can not teach technical, professional agriculture any more than it can teach law or engineering or any other professional trade, but it can interest the child in nature and in rural problems and thereby join his sympathies to the country at the same time that his mind is trained to efficient thinking. The child will teach the parent. The coming generation will see the result. * * * The object was to create a larger public sentiment in favor of agriculture; to increase the farmer's respect for his own business. These are the controlling purposes in the general movement that we are carrying forward under the title of nature study.

In 1900, Doctor Bailey said:

How unrelated much of our teaching is to the daily life is well shown by inquiry recently made of the children of New Jersey by Prof. Earl Barr. Inquiries were made of the country school children in two agricultural counties of the State as to what vocation they hoped to follow. As I recall the figures, of the children at 7 years of age, 25 per cent desired to follow some occupation connected with country life. Of those at 14 years, only 2 per cent desired such occupation.

This remarkable falling off Professor Barr ascribes in part to the influence of the teachers in the country schools, usually town or city girls. The teacher measures everything in terms of the city. She talks of the city. She returns to the city at the end of the week. In the meantime, all the beauty and attractiveness of the country may be unsuggested. Unconsciously to both the teacher and pupil, the minds of the children are turned toward the city. There results a constant migration to the city, bringing about serious social and economic problems. But, from the educational point of view, the serious part of it is the fact that the school training may unfit the child to live in its normal and natural environment. It is often said that the agricultural college trains the youth away from the farm. The fact is, the mischief is done long before the youth enters college. The great nature-study movement is an expression, as yet imperfect, of the feeling that there should be some living connection between the school life and the real life.

Development of the teaching of nature study in the public schools met practical difficulties. Most public-school teachers were not prepared to give instruction in agriculture. The normal schools had not prepared the teachers to handle this subject in a satisfactory way. Further difficulty developed when the teacher of the one-room school attempted to introduce nature study in the already overcrowded curriculum, and found that time was not available to teach the subject in a satisfactory manner. The coming of the consolidated rural school did much to overcome these difficulties. Superintendents of schools took an active interest in developing a satisfactory method of teaching agriculture and home making to the pupils in the rural schools.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES AID DEVELOPMENT

The county superintendents of schools were closely identified with the development of farmers' institutes in their respective counties. They presented to these institutes the problem of procuring teachers trained to carry on this instruction work. Farmers' institutes grew very rapidly between 1900 and 1905. The institute immediately recognized the need of a more satisfactory method of instructing farm boys and girls. As a result of the discussion at these institute meetings, a plan was developed for assisting boys and girls to conduct on their farms demonstrations which were thought of in the light of contests. These contests were known as production contests, net-profit contests, or exhibit contests. In many cases the county superintendent of schools acted as an organizer of the young people and farmers' institutes cooperated by supplying high-quality seed. The county-fair associations looked upon this phase of educational work as something novel and interesting and cooperated by offering prizes to boys and girls who exhibited at the annual fair articles produced by them.

It will be noted that when the farmers' institute began to take an active interest in rural training, the instruction was no longer restricted to the schoolroom and the school yard, but was centered and put into application at the homes of boys and girls receiving such training. Under the guidance of parents and interested community leaders the work carried on by the young people became more practical. The size of the projects increased and the young people began to keep accurate records of the methods followed and the results obtained.

THE MODERN CLUB IDEA APPEARS

In an attempt to revive interest in a farmers' institute in Macoupin County, Ill., in 1899, Will B. Otwell brought forcibly to the attention of the people the opportunity for interesting the youth in farm and home improvement. After two attempts to draw a crowd, he offered to supply 1 ounce of high-grade seed corn to every boy or girl in the county who would promise to plant the seed and make an exhibit at the farmers' institute. The small packages of corn were distributed to 500 boys and girls. When the institute was opened in the courthouse, 500 farmers attended and nearly as many boys and girls were waiting to place their exhibits. The problem of the local institute was solved, but few recognized the beginning of a new movement that was destined to spread to the entire country and become one of the most potent factors in the improvement of the farm home. The fame of Will Otwell and his corn contest spread. He was made director of the Illinois exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. He was determined that the boy corn growers of Illinois should make the exhibit. When the exposition opened, the Illinois agricultural exhibit consisted of a pyramid of corn, made with 10-ear exhibits of 1,000 boys. During the five years following the exposition, junior corn contests were begun in Texas, Iowa, Minnesota, and Ohio.

It was a mere suggestion of what the club work is to-day, but it marked the beginning of the new system of education, in which the boys and girls, under the direction of United States Department of

Agriculture, State agricultural colleges, county extension agents, and parents, undertook on their farms and in their homes to demonstrate one or more improved practices. It developed vision, put joy into the routine farm toil, and opened a new approach to the better things in country life.

A typical illustration of the way agencies cooperated during the early years in developing agriculture and home economics with boys and girls is furnished by the organization set up by A. B. Graham in Springfield Township, Ohio. In 1902, as principal of the township school, he obtained the cooperation of the experiment station at Wooster, Ohio. Seed corn of two varieties was procured from the station. Each boy who wished to grow a quarter acre of corn was enrolled and given sufficient corn to plant half of his plat with seed obtained from the station. The other half he was expected to plant with the variety usually grown on the home farm. The demonstrations showed that yellow corn supplied by the station matured very satisfactorily in that area, whereas the white corn supplied required such a long growing period that it was not suited to that particular section.

Other boys and girls in the township were enrolled in garden clubs. Instructions were given in the methods of cultivation to conserve moisture. Records were kept by the club members to show the quantity of vegetables used in the home and the quantity sold. Next, a number of boys were enrolled in a project to show the proper method of growing clover in that area. Each member was instructed in the litmus test, and lime from the neighboring lime kiln was used to correct the acidity of the soil. Excellent results were obtained in producing red clover on acid soil that had been treated with lime. The fourth project undertaken was the growing of flowers about the home. The cooperation of a wholesale nurseryman was obtained and the boys and girls enrolled in the home-beautification project were supplied with pansies and rosebushes at cost. During the year about 3,000 pansies and 3,000 rosebushes were distributed and planted in the township through this project.

In 1903 the farmers' institute was reorganized and a meeting was held at the courthouse. An exhibit of products grown by the boys and girls was made. In 1904 these activities were continued and Mr. Graham took more than 100 boys and girls and their parents to spend the day at Ohio State University at Columbus. On July 1, 1905, he was called to the university to take charge of the extension work with young people in Ohio.

The contribution to the development of boys' and girls' club work by the county superintendent is illustrated by the work in Wright County, Iowa. O. H. Benson, who became county superintendent in 1904, wanted to make the country school something more than a place in which to teach the three R's. In 1905 he introduced club work. Each school had its organized club, and regular club meetings were held by the teacher. Each member also had a demonstration at home. Special instructors were obtained from the agricultural college and the teachers' institute was made a training school for local leaders. Exhibits were held in each township during the fall under a large tent provided by the superintendent. The event was made an all-day picnic gathering, with exhibits, demonstrations,

and contests. Illustrated booklets were exhibited describing the work conducted in the home. Labels with a three-leaf clover were used to mark packages of seed corn offered for sale by the youthful corn growers. From this trade-mark was developed the four-leaf clover that has become the accepted club emblem throughout the United States.

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN STATES

BOYS' CLUBS ORGANIZED TO AID CROP DIVERSIFICATION

The boll weevil became a serious menace in the South in 1903 and the United States Department of Agriculture assigned Seaman A. Knapp as its representative to find what could be done to produce



FIG. 5.— Dr. Seaman A. Knapp and one of the early boys' corn clubs. 4-H clubs such as this have done much through example in popularizing the best ways of farming

cotton under boll-weevil conditions. A plan was developed which provided for the rotation of crops, better tillage, and the production of home-grown food and feed. The farmers were taught through demonstrations advantageously located for the purpose on 50 to 60 farms in each county. A few boys were enrolled as demonstrators and did satisfactory work. Although prior to this time contests in the production of corn had been carried on in many of the Southern States under the direction of various agencies, the extension agents of the department had not attempted to utilize such contests in promoting demonstration work.

Doctor Knapp saw in corn production a solution to many of the problems facing the South (fig. 5). It would bring about diversification and increased yield per acre, while the corn could be used to feed farm animals and thus create a satisfactory home-grown meat

supply for the farm family. In addition, it was thought that corn demonstrations might possibly aid in bringing about the adoption of a rotation of crops which would help in controlling the boll weevil. There was a general belief in many sections, however, that a satisfactory yield of corn could not be obtained on typical southern soils. Because of this belief, it was thought that the farmer himself might be hesitant about putting on a demonstration, but that he might be willing for his boy to grow a trial acre.

As a result, it was decided to give especial attention to demonstrations with boys, and, in 1907, W. H. Smith, county superintendent of schools, Holmes County, Miss., was employed by the department to organize the first boys' club work as a county unit.



Fig. 6.—Seaman A. Knapp, in charge of the Office of Extension Work in the South, United States Department of Agriculture, and State boys' club prize winners in 1910

The results obtained in Holmes County were so gratifying and so enthusiastically received by the people of the county that it was decided to extend this type of organization into several counties in the State, to give the idea a fair test and also to develop a comprehensive plan for the organization and conduct of club work. These trials were so successful that in 1909 a systematic effort was made to organize club work with corn in selected counties in each of the Southern States.

During the early period in the South, it was necessary to handle the boys' corn clubs in a rather spectacular manner in order to bring forcibly to the attention of the farmers the possibilities of corn production. To do this, great emphasis was placed upon the yield. Public-spirited citizens, seeing the value of demonstrations, offered prizes to those young men who excelled in corn production.

During 1909, 10,543 boys were enrolled in corn clubs and more than \$40,000 in prizes was given to the boys by public-spirited citizens. Governors, State superintendents of public instruction, and bankers and other business men vied with each other in paying respect to these young agriculturists who had shown the way to better farming.

The most valued prize offered was a trip to Washington to obtain a diploma issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. Elmer Halter, of Arkansas; De Witt Lundy, of Mississippi; Bascomb Usher, of South Carolina, and Ralph Bellwood, of Virginia, won these trips and were awarded the first diplomas ever given by the Secretary of Agriculture to boys for excellence in demonstration work. The efforts made in 1909 to expand the corn demonstration work by boys increased the enrollment in 1910 to 46,225. Many of the boys enrolled in 1909 remained in the demonstration work in 1910 and proved that their experience made it possible for them to produce a larger crop of corn. Every Southern State sent a corn champion to Washington that year (fig. 6).

Jerry Moore, of Winona, S. C., had the outstanding achievement during 1910. He produced 228 bushels of corn on an acre. This record has been exceeded by a club member only once since, when Walker Lee Dunson, of Alexander City, Ala., produced 232 bushels on an acre in 1913. Sufficient time has elapsed since these remarkable records were made to enable us to study the results of the wide publicity and of the demonstrations upon the boys themselves. Jerry Moore continued his interest in agriculture and graduated from his State agricultural college. Following graduation, he taught agriculture in one of the high schools of the State and in 1924 was taking postgraduate work at an agricultural college. Walker Lee Dunson continued in his club work for some years, began farming for himself near Alexander City, and became one of the outstanding farmers in his community.

The widespread interest in the high production per acre obtained and the publicity given the contests and trips, directed general public attention to the production methods used by these young farmers. The attention of the farming population of the South, particularly, was directed to the fundamental principles of good farming, such as deep fall plowing, the pulverizing of the soil, seed selection, suitable spacing, intensive cultivation, the increase of humus, the economical use of fertilizer, and the systematic rotation of crops. In 1911 the enrollment in corn clubs increased to 54,362. During the period that corn clubs were in existence in the South before the Smith-Lever Act went into effect, 2,007 boys produced more than 100 bushels of corn to the acre, of whom 27 produced more than 200 bushels per acre.

GIRLS' CLUBS ORGANIZE TO INCREASE FAMILY INCOME

It was soon realized that agricultural production in the South was only half of the rural problem, the other half being concerned with the home and the woman's side of country life. It was felt that with the right sympathy and the right method of approach, a woman could serve the women and girls of the country home with as much valuable information as men could serve the farmers and the

farm boys. Before plans for the improvement of the home and its premises could be taken up, however, it was necessary to establish greater financial independence. Girls' clubs were started with the principal idea of augmenting the family income. It seemed wise, with this viewpoint, to begin with girls' canning and poultry clubs (fig. 7). The entire cost of this effort, which was begun in 1910 in South Carolina and Virginia, was met by the General Education Board³ because under the provisions of the law then in effect, the money appropriated for demonstration work could not legitimately be spent for either home demonstration or club work. This was remedied when the Smith-Lever Act was passed in 1914.

The organization of the first canning club has been described by O. B. Martin, now regional agent for the Southern States, Office of



FIG. 7.—Home demonstration agent showing club members how to grade fish for canning. (Photograph furnished by Maryland Extension Service)

Cooperative Extensive Work, United States Department of Agriculture, as follows:

After the boys' work was fairly started in the spring and summer of 1909, we had numerous conferences regarding prospective work for girls. Doctor Knapp also talked with a number of leading women throughout the South regarding his plans and purposes. He felt sure that the demonstration idea would apply to the home as well as the farm.

Naturally I was anxious for the girl's work to be started in my home State of South Carolina, where I knew the people and the conditions best. In the fall of 1909, I accepted an invitation to address the school improvement association at its annual meeting with the State educational association in Columbia during the Christmas holidays. Delegates were present from all of the counties in the State except two. Out of a rather large gathering, most of whom were women, only one representative got the idea and put it into practice. Marie S. Cromer, the delegate from Aiken County, was a country school

³ Organized in 1902 to promote education within the United States without distinction of race, sex, or creed, and supported by an endowment fund donated by John D. Rockefeller.

teacher. She proceeded early in the spring of 1910 to enroll 46 girls and to get them all to plant tomato gardens. She kept up her school activities, but gave attention to the club members in the evening and on Saturdays. These girls were well distributed throughout the county. Later in 1910, she was appointed as a county home demonstration agent by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Miss Cromer soon reported that the girls were taking the keenest interest in growing tomato plants. She also said that the teachers were noticing that the club girls were doing better work in school and that several club members who had been pale and frail were improving in health. How natural it was that growing girls should become enthusiastic over growing plants and that the pink in their cheeks should anticipate the red that was coming in the tomatoes.

Miss Cromer's work soon attracted the attention of the newspapers and the public generally. A wealthy northern woman, who had been wintering in Aiken, paid Miss Cromer's expenses to New York and New England, where she spent a few weeks at some of the best home-economics schools. During her absence, the responsibility of taking care of the girls and of the tomatoes fell upon the State farm demonstration agent, Ira W. Williams, and those of us here in the department. About the time the tomatoes were ripening, I made arrangements to have a large canning outfit expressed from Illinois to Aiken, S. C. I also ordered 3,000 tin cans and elaborate soldering equipment. I made arrangements with President Johnson, of Winthrop College, to have Miss Carrie Hyde, one of the home-economics teachers, meet us in Aiken. The county superintendent of education, C. H. Seigler, who was taking great interest in the work, made the local arrangements for the meetings. When I arrived in Aiken, a large number of the club girls were there with their tomatoes. I had not had much experience in canning. Miss Hyde knew the science of it, but she did not have any experience in canning in tin, so I had to hustle around and get some more help. I got a tinner, a plumber, and a carpenter. It was not long before the smoke was pouring out of the big canner on the courthouse lawn. We canned there for three days. Many women from the country, as well as from the town, were present.

I remember one girl, Katie Gunter, who came 23 miles every day in a buggy with her father. She had the best lot of tomatoes that were brought to the canning meetings and made the best club record. The next year she came to the joint gatherings of South Carolina and Georgia women agents in that vicinity and was the most skillful canner at the meetings. That was good progress for a 14-year-old girl in one year. The South Carolina legislature passed an act giving her a scholarship in Winthrop College. Her name was incorporated in the statutes of the State along with that of Jerry Moore, who had won national honors in his corn-club work.

After canning and poultry work became well established, other lines were taken up in succession. In 1911, 3,153 girls were enrolled in clubs in the Southern States; in 1912, 20,300; and in 1914, when the Smith-Lever Act was passed, 33,173. In 1914, the girls reported that they canned tomatoes and other vegetables, estimated to be worth \$284,880, of which nearly \$200,000 was profit.

EXTENSION ORGANIZATION SPREADS RAPIDLY

As early as 1906, the association of land-grant colleges recognized the need and recommended the organization of a distinct administrative division in each of the colleges to direct the many extension activities that were developing. Seven States had acted on the recommendation when the association met in 1907, and by 1912, practically all of the Southern States had signed cooperative agreements with the department and had organized extension departments or extension committees.

The appropriations by Congress for extension work in the South and the liberal allotment of funds from the General Education Board made it possible to extend the county extension system in

that section between 1906 and 1914. No emergency called for similar action in the Northern and Western States, but the popularity and success of demonstration work in the South soon inspired a demand for similar work in other sections of the country. This demand finally became so insistent that the department asked Congress to provide the funds to promote demonstration work in the Northern and Western States. Such funds were provided by the agricultural appropriation act passed in 1912, and steps were immediately taken to arrange cooperative agreements between the department and State agricultural colleges to promote boys' and girls' club and county agricultural agent work. Thus, demonstration work became well established in practically every State by the end of 1913.

UNIFORM EXTENSION SYSTEM ESTABLISHED

When the Smith-Lever Act went into effect on July 1, 1914, sufficient funds were provided on a cooperative basis to take over the entire work, which facilitated the promotion and expansion of club demonstrations much more rapidly than would have been possible otherwise. In effect, the Smith-Lever Act created a single extension system through which practically all extension work of the State agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture was to be conducted.

THE CLUB MOVEMENT SINCE 1914

1914 TO 1917

The expansion of the county extension system under the Smith-Lever Act and the employment of State club leaders or State club agents made available competent leadership that brought about a marked improvement in the method of organization and in the effectiveness of the work with young people. The outstanding developments of the first three years were the adoption of the local-leader plan and the definite organization of boys and girls into clubs. The employment of agricultural and home-economics specialists with headquarters at the State agricultural college made it possible to publish printed and mimeographed circulars applicable to local conditions and giving definite instruction to young people carrying on demonstrations.

The development of a plan to assist each community in organizing a program for the improvement of the farm and home through the efforts of men, women, boys, and girls made 4-H club work more practical and won for it the support of everyone interested in rural improvement. It increased the number and variety of projects in which the young people participated by adding to the earlier projects, then widely distributed, such others as baby-beef production, potato production, market gardening, clothing, meal preparation, preparation of hot school lunches, lamb feeding, and legume production.

The public press and exhibits had been the only means used to place before the people the results obtained in demonstrations. The demonstration team was now developed as another means of showing the people of the community the practices followed and the results obtained. This period saw the beginning of numerous club practices that have since become standard procedure in club organization, such as separate club sections at county and interstate fairs, judging

contests, pageants, club camps, club songs and yells, and other recreational features. The county club agent devoting full time to boys and girls had in a few places in the Northern and Western States proved that it was possible to reach effectively from 300 to 500 boys and girls in a single county.

THE WAR PERIOD

War conditions brought about the rapid expansion of the extension system. The plans for systematic improvement of agriculture were temporarily set aside and the entire energy of the country was thrown into food production and war service. The farm boys and girls in 4-H clubs made a real and substantial contribution to the food production of the Nation. More than a million boys and girls were enrolled. They produced food for the family, canned the surplus, collected peach pits for the making of carbon for use in soldiers' gas masks, fed an extra beef or a few additional pigs, and took the place on the farms of the older brother at the front. They learned to work systematically and to be happy in their work. The war experience emphasized the importance of organization in country life and the good results that could be obtained by working together on a common task as demonstrated by these 4-H club groups.

1919 TO 1924

The readjustment of the club program to peace-time conditions and the return to the pre-war plan for systematic improvement was not an easy task. The personnel of the extension service had to be reduced. At the height of the war 1,002 county club agents were employed. In a large number of States it was decided to dispense with county club agents and place the full responsibility for the organization of young people on the county agricultural and home demonstration agent. In many counties only one agent remained to organize the work with men, women, boys, and girls. The reduction in the number of agents in a county brought about a corresponding reduction in the enrollment of young people for demonstration work. The experience gained in the use of local leaders, however, made it possible to maintain an average enrollment of approximately 70 club members per county extension agent employed.

The rapid reduction in the price of farm commodities affected club members as well as farmers. Pig and beef club members were compelled to take large losses. The low level of commodity prices kept a large number of boys out of clubs and the enrollment continued to decrease until 1923. The work with girls was affected differently. As a result of decreased farm income, less money was available for food, clothing, and living. In order to be suitably dressed and maintain the standard of the home, the girls joined clothing, poultry, and nutrition clubs. In this way they helped to increase and to make the most of the available family income, which is another evidence of the responsiveness of the 4-H club as an agency for meeting the needs of farm life.

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION TO-DAY

During the years when the club idea was new, the organization and conduct of 4-H clubs proceeded in a more or less haphazard manner, the methods or lack of methods depending upon the interest

and ability of the local leaders of the movement. But 10 years' experience developed a certain standard, and the methods followed in one part of the country are now in a general way similar to those of other parts.

Under the present general plan of organizing and conducting 4-H clubs, county extension agents meet with interested men and women of each community during the fall and winter months and select a few projects to receive especial attention during the year. The practices to be demonstrated are agreed upon and, if practical, boys and girls of the community are invited to carry out some of the demonstrations. Either the boys and girls select their own local community leader or the adults appoint a leader for the young people. The demonstrations to be undertaken are discussed with the boys and girls. Those interested sign an enrollment blank and agree to carry out carefully the practices recommended. The county extension agent helps the local leader prepare a program for the club for each meeting during the year. Tentative programs are arranged for the club tour and the exhibits at the local and county fairs, and plans for the training of a demonstration team are discussed.

The local leader frequently interests the local farm organization and a few appropriate prizes may be offered for excellence in results obtained. The county club camp is discussed, as well as the opportunity to attend the short course at the State agricultural college. This discussion with the local leader is supplemented with well-chosen literature on the demonstration supplied by the extension service of the State agricultural college.

The first few meetings of the club are taken up with discussing problems incident to the demonstration—perhaps the purchase of a suitable beef calf to feed or the selection of material for the making of a garment. Parliamentary procedure is learned and the records and reports to be made later in the year are discussed. A short period is provided for recreation. The number of meetings held by the club depends on the demonstration. A sewing club requires more meetings than a pig club.

The club members learn the significance of the four-leaf clover, the emblem of the demonstration club. They learn the meaning of the four H's on the leaves of the clover and attempt to get from club work the training for head, heart, health, and hands.⁴

When the demonstrations are begun, the local leader usually visits the club members and discusses the application of the practices and the records to be kept. This insures a good start and a worth-while demonstration. When the demonstrations are at their best, a tour is often organized to enable the people of the community to look over the work and examine the records of each club member. Interested citizens join the tour, and at each stop the group has an opportunity to discuss the relative merits of the practices used. Such tours help to bring recognition to the boys and girls as a responsible part of the community, capable of making a worth-while contribution to its welfare. Later in the summer, the club may join clubs from neighboring communities for an afternoon picnic or all

⁴ For explanation of the significance of the 4-H club emblem, see footnote on p. 1.

the club members of a county may assemble at a grove or park for a festival, including a pageant, athletic events, stunts, and contests.

If a demonstration team has been trained, it appears before the local farm or community club to show the practices demonstrated and the results obtained. A county camp is often held for all club members who are able to participate. It is a week of instruction, recreation, and change for the farm boy and girl. The camp fire in the evening, the songs, cheers, and inspiring talks make the camp a source of lasting encouragement to club members. The demonstration and judging contests at the local and county fairs are absorbing events and the awarding of prizes and ribbons for the exhibit of club products adds interest and emphasizes the excellence that may be obtained.

For many 4-H clubs, an "achievement day" at the close of the club year in October or November is the big annual event. Although all club members can not be winners in the contests, achievement day makes it possible for all to receive recognition for the completion of a definite undertaking. The day's program, including an inspirational talk and reports of outstanding club members, usually culminates with the award of 4-H emblems to each club member completing his or her demonstration and making a complete report.

Although the year's program of club activities which has been outlined is typical of the average club, numerous additional events are often added by the club members themselves. A box social to provide funds to pay the expenses of members to the short course at the State agricultural college, a series of contests with outside clubs, or a food sale may be held to satisfy the enthusiasm of the youthful demonstrators.

GROWTH OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN 10 YEARS

Actual achievement in boys' and girls' club work can best be visualized by a study of the various kinds of demonstrations carried on by 4-H club members. Just as the many activities of the farm interlock, so do many of the demonstrations, which incorporate the best-known farm practices, bear directly on each other. But in each field the particular problems to be solved are kept distinct, so that as the work in that line develops, the boy or girl handling it tends to become something of a specialist. Participation of the boy or girl in club activities has resulted in a knowledge of and a more lively interest in the growing things on the farm, in increased health and comfort of living, and in greater economic returns—results which can not be measured. Some impression of what the demonstrations conducted have meant in the way of country-life improvement may be gained from the following brief summaries of the developments and results in particular fields of work (fig. 8).

CORN

The growing of corn is a major farm enterprise over a large area. It is estimated that four-fifths of the corn produced on the farm is used as a feed for farm animals. The universal interest in corn has made it one of the largest as well as one of the most widely distributed club projects. The corn-club demonstration plat has increased in size since the early contests in Macoupin County, Ill. At

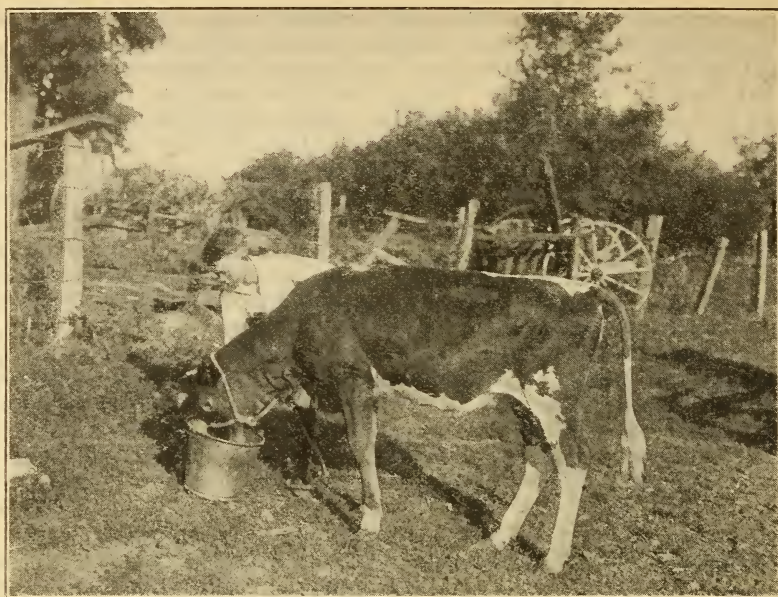


FIG. 8.—Club member and his calf. Through participation in club activities young people have learned through practice the better ways on the farm and in the home, and they have been inspired with faith in agriculture, pride of occupation, and belief in the unlimited possibilities of rural life



FIG. 9.—County agricultural agent demonstrating the field selection of seed corn to club members. During 1924, 30,249 boys and 1,002 girls demonstrated the testing of seed corn, the value of improved strains, the use of fertilizers, cultivation, hill selection of seed corn, and proper storage of seed, and made outstanding records in production

that time, the size of the plat was limited to the amount that could be planted with 1 ounce of seed. At the present time 1 acre of corn is recognized as a minimum for a satisfactory club project. The more experienced club member enrolls in the 5-acre contest and attempts to qualify as an honorary member of the 100-bushel corn club.

The 2,533 corn clubs with an enrollment of 31,251 in 1924 demonstrated the testing of seed corn, the value of improved strains, the use of fertilizers, cultivation, hill selection of seed corn, and proper storage of seed, and made some outstanding records for production on an acre of ground (fig. 9). In Indiana three of the five State corn champions had yields of more than 100 bushels on an acre. At the International Hay and Grain Show at Chicago an Indiana club boy won the sweepstakes championship in the 10-year exhibit. The universal interest and hearty cooperation of all agencies in corn clubs is typified in the plan for corn clubs in Tippecanoe County, Ind., which follows:

The cooperating agencies in this project shall be the Rotary Club of La Fayette, the county superintendent of schools, the county agricultural agent, the teacher of vocational agriculture, boys' and girls' club members, Tippecanoe Corn Growers' Association, the club division of Purdue University, and the parents of the boys and girls themselves. The following outline shows the part to be taken by each agency involved:

SHARE OF ROTARY CLUB AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

The Rotary Club of La Fayette shall:

- (1) Cooperate in development of county corn-club plan through the agricultural relations committee and individual members as far as possible.
- (2) Provide prizes through the clubs.
- (3) Visit individual members at their corn-club plats as far as possible, especially during the months of July and August.
- (4) Cooperate with other agencies in putting on a Rotary corn-club picnic at a time and place to be chosen by the joint committee.
- (5) Cooperate with other agencies in putting on a corn-club tour at a time to be decided by the joint committee.
- (6) Provide record books for aid in keeping accurate records of all club work done by club members.
- (7) Take part in a county corn-club show to be held in connection with the adult county corn show in December.
- (8) Entertain the first and second township prize winners and their fathers at a luncheon held after the county corn show; and have a special program by both the boys and their fathers.

The county superintendent of schools shall:

- (1) Urge the teachers of vocational agriculture to fulfill properly the duties of local supervisors of the corn clubs.

The county agricultural agent shall:

- (1) Cooperate with the Rotary Club and club division in working out detailed plans for the corn club.
- (2) Assist in locating good seed corn properly tested.
- (3) Help in arranging a county corn show in connection with adult corn show in December.
- (4) Cooperate with club division in putting on corn-judging schools.
- (5) Present corn-judging program for Rotary Club during month of April.

SHARE OF TEACHERS, CLUB MEMBERS, AND PARENTS

The teachers of vocational agriculture shall:

- (1) Cooperate with the club division in obtaining club enrollment.
- (2) Visit club members giving aid and counsel in the field.
- (3) Take active part in all tours, picnics, and similar activities.
- (4) Conduct a regular corn-club meeting at least once a month.

(5) See that all records are properly kept and are up to date at all club meetings.

(6) Assist in giving publicity by writing stories.

The boys' and girls' club members shall:

(1) Grow an acre of corn in accordance with the rules.

(2) Keep a careful and accurate record of work done.

(3) Attend club meetings and take part in discussion.

(4) Make exhibits in local or county exhibits.

(5) Make special study of scoring, placing, and exhibiting corn, as well as of the most businesslike methods of production and marketing.

The Tippecanoe County Corn Growers' Association shall:

(1) Assist the county agricultural agent and others in procuring seed corn of the highest possible type for use in the club.

(2) Encourage boys to enter and complete corn-club demonstrations.

(3) Take part in meetings, picnics, and tours where possible.

(4) Cooperate in providing place and proper exhibit and condition for county show in December.

The parents shall:

(1) Encourage the boys and girls to join and complete the corn demonstration.

(2) Provide the boys and girls with a suitable place to grow corn and encourage them to do the work prescribed.

(3) Not only consent but boost.

The club division of Purdue University shall:

(1) Provide blanks, records, and similar things gratis for all club members.

(2) Assist committee in working out plans for club.

(3) Work with those in charge on picnics, tours, and similar activities.

(4) Conduct corn-judging schools for club members.

(5) Assist in publicity for the club.

WORKING PLAN

The following working plan indicates the activities and conditions to be considered in working out this project:

(1) Enrollment.

(a) Vocational teachers; county agricultural agent; teacher.

(b) Newspaper.

(c) Club plans; club office; county agricultural agent.

(2) Good seed.

(a) Quality; tested; amount; standardization of varieties.

(b) Source; corn growers.

(3) Cultural methods.

(a) Club meetings.

(b) Records; blanks.

(c) Corn-judging school; club division.

(4) Tour; picnic; banquet.

(5) Show.

(a) Time.

(b) Place.

(c) Prizes.

The quality of the corn produced by corn clubs is indicated in a recent report of the State club leader of Oregon:

At the land-products show in connection with the Pacific Livestock Exposition, Earl Klahr of Malheur County, a club member, exhibited corn in both the club and open classes, winning first place in each class and winning the sweepstakes prize of the entire show on his club exhibit.

COTTON

The fight against the cotton-boll weevil that began in 1903 has continued every year. Although the boll weevil has spread to practically all the cotton States, the production of cotton has made steady progress. New and improved methods of growing cotton under boll-weevil conditions have been developed from time to time.

The farm boy through his club work has shown an eagerness to try out the new and improved methods (fig. 10).

In 1924, 16,504 boys and 638 girls demonstrated the use of improved seed, proper fertilizing, cultivating, and thinning. There was produced 11,042,698 pounds of seed cotton by the 9,666 boys and 163 girls who reported. The volume produced is itself an indication of the success of the demonstrations. The demonstration work by young people in Tallapoosa and Coosa Counties, Ala., is indicative of the quality of the work and the enthusiasm of the people over the results obtained. In these two counties, 150 boys were enrolled in cotton clubs and pledged themselves to grow an acre of cotton according to the "Auburn plan." They had as an objective the



FIG. 10.—County agricultural agent inspecting the thick spacing of cotton in a club member's field. During 1924, 16,504 boys and 638 girls demonstrated the use of improved seed, proper fertilizing, cultivating, and thinning, and 9,666 boys and 163 girls reported a production of 11,042,698 pounds of seed cotton

production of 150 bales of cotton on 150 acres. When the season closed, 76 boys had achieved their objective. The Birmingham Age-Herald in an editorial praised cotton clubs and their value to the farmers of the State. It read in part as follows:

Seventy-six boys of Tallapoosa and Coosa Counties, members of boys' cotton clubs, have made their respective trial acres produce a bale of cotton each this year. Next year it is the hope of the county agricultural agent to have 100 boys succeed in raising 100 bales of cotton on 100 individual acres. It can be done. And if on an acre, then on 2, then on 10; and if on 10, why not on any amount of land properly planted, fertilized, and tended? If the boys can do it, why not the fathers? Undoubtedly, that is the question many an adult farmer of these two counties is asking himself as he visits the fair and gazes at the visible and incontestable proof of what 76 boys, ranging from 11 to 18, have done.

LEGUMES

Although legumes have long been recognized as desirable crops for feed and for maintaining the fertility of the soil, little progress has been made in bringing them into general use. Boys and girls were not attracted to alfalfa, soy beans, sweet clover, crimson clover, cowpeas, velvet beans, and other legumes because they could find no way in which they could make a direct profit by the undertaking. The growth of livestock clubs and the interest in nutritious feed for growing animals have turned the attention of club members to the production of these crops.

The pig-club member has learned that economic gains can be had when alfalfa is used as pasture. In the South pig-club members have been obtaining very satisfactory gains with velvet beans, cowpeas, and lespedeza. Where the club members once fed expensive grains and mill feed in order to obtain a balanced ration, they are now feeding the farm-grown legumes because they reduce the cost of feed and stimulate growth of young farm animals.

Legume clubs, the members of which grow crops such as alfalfa, soy beans, sweet clover, crimson clover, alsike clover, cowpeas, velvet beans, field beans, peanuts, and lespedeza, are increasing in number and importance each year. The importance of such clubs and the interest taken in them are shown by the large number organized. In 1924, 618 legume clubs were organized with an enrollment of 7,001 boys and 438 girls. These clubs are an evidence of the progress made during the last 10 years in spreading the knowledge of animal feeding. The boys and girls, through their club work, have learned the sources of cheap protein feed and have produced it in sufficient quantity to meet their club needs.

SMALL GRAINS

Wheat is an important cash crop in the North Central and Western States. Some of the old standard varieties have not been giving satisfactory returns under present conditions. In many of the wheat-producing areas, the seed has become so mixed that the crop sells at a low price on the market. Rust has been responsible for large losses in the spring-wheat belt. The experiment stations have been producing new varieties that promise increased yield and higher gluten content. In the spring-wheat belt, Kota wheat has been developed to meet the destructive attack of the rust.

The demand of the farmer for seed wheat of known varieties and origin has made it necessary for demonstrations to be conducted to introduce the new varieties, to determine increased yield under local conditions, and to produce the desired seed wheat in sufficient quantities to meet local needs. Boys and girls have played an important part in these demonstrations. During 1924, 1,055 boys and 2 girls were enrolled in 54 wheat clubs. The reports from 721 boys and 2 girls show that in these demonstrations 34,182 bushels were produced on 1,391 acres. The club members grew Trumbull wheat in Ohio, Michekoff wheat in Indiana, and Kota wheat in North Dakota. In addition to the new varieties that were tested under local conditions, pure strains of older varieties were produced to be sold as seed for sowing the farm acreage.

Pure seed is recognized as one of the important factors in determining yield and farm income. Within the last 10 years, seed-improvement associations have been organized in practically every State. Such associations have aided in the production of high-quality seed which has increased the income of farmers using it. The production of high-quality seed has appealed to boys and girls. Seed-improvement associations have also encouraged young people by supplying local leaders. During 1924, 4,573 boys and 84 girls were enrolled in 49 oats clubs, 5 rye clubs, 17 barley clubs, and 258 other cereal clubs.

The reports from club members completing their demonstrations show a production of 82,237 bushels of other small grains, a large part of which could be used as seed on the home farm or marketed in the community at an excellent price. Although this was a worthwhile thing in itself, the real value was the training the young people obtained in roguing fields, selecting varieties, preparing seed beds, and studying standards of seed certification.

POTATOES

The production of potatoes on new land was a simple farming operation. However, as farm land came into regular cultivation the problems of potato production increased. Diseases and insects developed that reduced the yield and made the enterprise less profitable. Experiment stations devised new and improved methods of spraying to meet these menaces. The treatment of seed for the control of diseases was essential to obtain a satisfactory return. Northern-grown seed produced under favorable conditions free from disease was found profitable in areas farther south. Hill selection of seed and the roguing of fields became desirable practices.

Through potato-club enterprises boys and girls have joined their parents in demonstrating the results that may be obtained by using improved practices. Demonstration teams in community meetings have shown the proper methods of selecting seed, cutting and treating seed, and identifying diseases. They have brought to attention the varieties best suited to the local community and the grading of potatoes for the market. Each potato-club member has grown from one-fourth to 1 acre of potatoes and has kept records on the cost of seed, fertilizer, and spray materials, on the method of cultivation, and on the diseases and insects found. Such records have shown, likewise, the yield of marketable and cull potatoes. With the assistance of the local leader and the county extension agent the club demonstration team has tabulated results obtained at the end of the season and has presented the facts at winter meetings where they were discussed.

In this way the better practices in potato production demonstrated by club members have become commonly known. The visiting of the demonstration plats and the discussion of the relative merits of different practices have enlivened the conversation in all neighborhoods where farmers and their families met. The competitive exhibits at the local county fairs have added zest and given wide publicity to the undertaking. The permanent value of this work, however, lies in the fact that the young people participating acquire

confidence in themselves and the belief that by the application of intelligent effort they can meet and overcome any difficulties which may beset them in crop production.

Some idea of the appreciation accorded the activities of potato clubs may be gained from the following excerpt from the 1924 report of the State leader of Pennsylvania:

The continued popularity and heavy enrollment in potato clubs went beyond expectations. Altogether 1,844 members were enrolled, of whom 65 per cent completed. The plan followed was to have local business men sponsor club members by furnishing them with disease-free seed potatoes. In return, the club members were expected to pay the business men with a supply of table potatoes equal in value to the investment the business men made in the seed. The usual plan followed was to give each club member one sack (2½ bushels) of disease-free seed for which he repaid the business man with 4 bushels of well-graded table potatoes. One sack of seed plants approximately one-sixth of an acre. In addition, for comparison purposes, the club member was required to plant an equal quantity of home seed, so that in all, each club member grew one-third of an acre. During the annual round-up each club member reported the comparative yields obtained for disease-free seed and home seed, the yield being calculated on an acre basis.

The average yield for disease-free seed was 229.2 bushels per acre and the average yield for home seed was 182.5 bushels per acre, giving an average increase of 46.7 bushels per acre in favor of disease-free seed. This was an increase of 124 bushels per acre, or more than 100 per cent, over the average production in the State. The goal of 400 bushels on an acre was again attained by Donald Snook, who raised 470 bushels on a measured acre. This is the second time that he has been a member of the "400-bushel club," an accomplishment few adult growers have reached. The percentage of completions—65 per cent—may look low, but from our basis of measuring completions, I do not think it is low. A club member is not credited with completing his demonstration unless he turns in a yield for both disease-free seed and home-grown seed, shows a peck at the annual round-up meeting, and presents his record book properly filled out.

The factors which have contributed to the popularity of potato clubs, in the order of their importance, are: (1) The positive results obtained from the comparison in production of disease-free seed with home seed, (2) the fact that the club member is not called upon for a cash outlay to start with, (3) wide-awake county agricultural agents appreciate the value of having business men act as sponsors, because the business man thus becomes well acquainted with the extension program, (4) the get-together banquet of business men, club members, and farmers held at the end of the season, serves as a climax and gives the results wide publicity in the county.

Turning from Pennsylvania to the Pacific coast, we find that potato clubs in Spokane County, Wash., show equally practical results as a part of the extension program for agricultural improvement. The 1924 report of Spokane County follows:

The goals set were 4 clubs, 40 members, and 3 seed-treating and 3 roguing demonstrations. The Valley Prairie club also proposed to hold a seed-potato sale. The actual accomplishment was the organization of 4 clubs with 48 members, or 20 per cent more members than the goal set. Six demonstrations in seed-treatment with roguing were given, and a judging school was held under the direction of the county office. There were 4 demonstrations held and 26 local club meetings with a total attendance of 238 directed by local leaders. The seed potatoes belonging to the Valley Prairie club were sold at private sale.

In 1924, 877 potato clubs were organized, with a membership of 12,584 boys and 2,181 girls. Reports received from 9,722 boys and girls showed a production of 372,940 bushels on 3,018 acres, or an average acre yield of about 123 bushels. Reports received from 43 of these club members showed 43 acres of potatoes grown under improved methods, with a total value of \$2,958.28.

SWEET POTATOES

In the Eastern and Southern States, the growing of sweet potatoes is an important farm enterprise. The control of diseases and insect pests and the fertilization of the sandy soils in which this crop is produced have been given considerable attention by the State experiment stations. Improved practices, through which the quality and yield of the crop have been bettered, have been demonstrated by boys' and girls' clubs.

The following extract from the report of the State club leader of Mississippi shows the practical requirements of the demonstrations conducted:

The following plan for the boys' sweet-potato clubs, adopted for Pearl River County, will serve as an example of the methods used in this project:

Objects.

- (1) To standardize the variety used in the county.
- (2) To demonstrate the most approved practices in the production of sweet potatoes.
- (3) To meet market requirements as regards grade and pack.
- (4) To make money for club members.

Requirements.—All members will be required to: (1) Execute a note for needed supplies, such as potato draws, or slips, fertilizer, etc., for carrying out project; (2) use Porto Rican variety; (3) use 600 pounds of 8-3-6 fertilizer per acre; (4) prepare land and set draws on same date—date to be named by county agricultural agent; (5) cultivate according to instructions given by county agricultural agent; (6) harvest, grade, and pack, according to instructions, and deliver potatoes to shipping point for cooperative marketing on date named by county agricultural agent; (7) pay notes at bank from proceeds of sale of the potatoes.

In 1924, 279 sweet-potato clubs were organized through the extension service with a membership of 2,683 boys and 97 girls. Reports received from 1,441 boys and girls showed a production of 86,210 bushels.

HOME GARDENING

The home garden occupies an important place in supplying the table of the farm family. Not only fresh vegetables, but the canned and stored surplus, make possible a balanced menu throughout the year. The garden project annually attracts a large number of boys and girls because of the possible production and the variety of activities, each vegetable requiring a system of practices peculiar to itself. The beauty of a well laid-out garden and the fact that there is a crop to harvest from early spring to late fall also have their appeal.

Home gardening has had the support and interest of parents. It has taken the young people into the open under home influences and has absorbed their attention during vacation periods. In addition, the home grounds have been beautified and made attractive by gardens that have been well planned and well tended.

The influence of effective local leadership has been particularly marked in the success of garden clubs during the 10 years of extension work under the Smith-Lever Act. In the early period it was found difficult to obtain local leaders who were able to give young people the assistance necessary in understanding and applying the instructions sent out by the extension service. The period since the war, however, has seen an enthusiastic group of men and women giving generously of their time and energy as garden-club leaders. Older club members, also, are now giving their time to garden-club activities with success. The quality of the products exhibited at

local, township, county, and State fairs shows a marked improvement over the exhibits of 10 years ago. The "largest pumpkin" contest has given way to quality competition. Each year we find more boys and girls exhibiting in the open classes in competition with adults, and the prizes won are an evidence of the wide dissemination of garden practices through 4-H club activities.

Although the standard garden project involves a tenth acre, the more experienced club members often manage larger tracts and receive correspondingly larger financial returns. Such expansion of a garden-club demonstration is told in the following report of the State club leader of Massachusetts:

Costas Caragianis, of Dracut, last year's Middlesex County garden champion, is out for the State championship this year. In telling the story of his club work and training, he said:

"I am a third-year member of the Parker Avenue garden club. Last spring I got five other boys to join a club, four of whom finished their work. I visited the boys twice this summer and found their gardens in good condition. Last fall I planted 150 pounds of onions for the following spring. I made \$126 on them. When the crop was finished, I planted 4 ounces of parsley on which I made \$27.90. At the same time, I planted celery, sweet marjoram, and sweet basil.

"This year, unlike last year, I was fortunate enough to borrow my uncle's horse and went to the dump and gathered over 200 tin cans in which I planted sweet marjoram and sweet basil. These plants I afterwards sold at good prices, some of them bringing as much as \$2 each.

"I had a very fine time at Camp Gilbert, Amherst, Mass., where I stayed for a week. I was especially interested in the garden back of French Hall. I got a good idea of how to raise celery and peppers and also how to use nitrate of soda. This nitrate made my plants grow very well."

Varieties to plant, fertilizer to use, and control measures for diseases and insect pests are only a few of the things that absorb the attention of the 4-H club gardener. The preparation of the products and their sale were fascinating tasks for the 88,000 boys and girls enrolled in 1924. It is interesting to note that more than 75 per cent of the club members enrolled in this project were girls.

BUSH AND SMALL FRUITS

The growing of small fruits on the farm both for market and home use has been developed as a part of the extension program. The demand for these products by urban dwellers whose automobiles have made them easily accessible to the country has made it possible for the boys and girls living on an improved road to market quality products at small expense. Consequently, the growing of raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, and grapes was demonstrated by 68 clubs consisting of 1,609 members in 1924.

The following report of H. E. Drobish, county agricultural agent of Butte County, Calif., tells how boys' and girls' clubs may obtain successful results with this project in a highly specialized area:

Propagating nursery stock proved to be a profitable club enterprise for agricultural club members in this county. When the club was organized in the fall of 1922 considerable interest was being manifested in horticulture in the Gridley district. Many new peach orchards were being planted, nursery stock was scarce, and prices were high. This kind of club, therefore, appealed very strongly to the boys and their parents.

The club was organized for the purpose of demonstrating the possibilities of propagating peach nursery stock. Each member stratified enough peach pits in the fall of 1922 to insure obtaining 3,000 seedling trees, which were

planted in a nursery of one-eighth of an acre in the spring. Each boy's aim was to obtain 1,000 or more June-budded trees from his seedling stock. A great deal of skill is required in growing June buds, since the buds must be forced to start within a month after insertion of the bud if sufficient growth is to be obtained to make a marketable tree.

Each club member prepared his own land and did all of the work, including the budding and caring for his trees. The careful supervision required was supplied by the county agricultural agent and the horticultural instructor of the high school. The club members were taught to become efficient at budding and tying. When the seedlings became the size of a lead pencil, budding operations commenced. The club members were given assistance in selecting bud wood from trees known to be true to name and variety.

At the conclusion of the contest, 10 club members turned in club records showing the average cost of producing a tree to be 5.8 cents each. June-budded trees sold for 16 cents each and dormant buds for 10 cents each, making a neat profit for the work done. Harry Sanner, the winner of the club contest, produced 1,300 excellent June-budded trees which were sold at a profit of \$152.

As a direct outgrowth of nursery club work, an orchard club was formed and seven nursery club members continued in the orchard club, planting no less than 1 acre of their nursery stock.

DAIRY CATTLE

The emphasis that has been given to dairy improvement in the extension program has created an opportunity for dairy clubs in practically every State. The wide variation of the productive capacity of dairy cows and the response that may be obtained by improved methods in dairy feeding and management have interested farm boys and girls. The opportunity to own something separate and apart from the farm herd has made the dairy calf-and-heifer project additionally attractive.

Ten years have shown marked progress in dairy-club demonstrations. During the period 1914 to 1917 there were few dairy clubs and in most cases where such clubs were organized, grade calves were used. The increased consumption of milk and dairy products and the increased cost of dairy production have directed the attention of farmers and their families to economic production through improved feeding, breeding, and management. This interest in economic production has led dairy-club members to study pedigrees, cow-testing associations, records, and types of high-producing animals. It has taken them into the judging ring and has made them careful students of classes of dairy animals as they were judged at county, State, and national fairs (fig. 11). In 1924 the typical farm boy and girl wanted a purebred animal from a dam of proved production and a sire from high-producing stock.

The breed associations have had an increasing demand from prospective dairy-club members for assistance in obtaining quality calves and heifers. To meet the demand, two dairy-breed associations have employed men to devote full time to boys' and girls' dairy clubs. The original cost of a calf means a large investment on the part of the club member. The problem has been usually met through the aid of the local banker. In many cases, the banker has loaned large sums of money on the unsecured notes of club members, who were then able to introduce a better grade of dairy stock into the community. The promptness with which young people meet their obligations has won for them the confidence of the banker, business man, and farmer.

The large number of boys and girls owning purebred dairy calves and heifers has led the county, State, and national fairs to open special classes in their premium list in order that these club members may have the education that results from such competition. The exhibit of dairy calves by club members at the Wisconsin State fair in 1924 was a striking example of the progress that dairy-calf club work has made in the last decade. More than 400 calves and heifers owned by club members were exhibited, and it was difficult to find among them an animal of poor or inferior quality. Nor have these aggressive young farmers been satisfied with only club competition. In recent years they have entered their animals in the open competition and to the satisfaction of the more experienced exhibitors have often carried off the honors in State and interstate fairs.



FIG. 11.—County agricultural agent demonstrating points in judging dairy cattle to club members. During 1924, 14,973 boys and 7,224 girls were enrolled in dairy clubs, of whom 10,721 boys and 3,738 girls reported the ownership of 14,413 dairy calves and heifers

The permanent results of dairy-club activities are to be seen on the farm itself. When the club calf comes on the home farm, a purebred sire soon follows and within a very short time the scrub herd is sold to the butcher and is replaced with purebreds or quality grades. The following extract from a New Jersey report for 1924 is typical of the results that boys and girls in dairy clubs have achieved:

Probably the most far-reaching project in dairy extension is the boys' and girls' calf-club project. We now have more than 400 boys and girls in calf clubs owning over 500 purebred calves. This is the first year that any considerable number of calves raised by juniors has come into production. All the juniors are keeping milk records as well as feed records, and probably the average of these heifers this year will be around 8,000 pounds of milk. Many of them are running up to 10,000 and 12,000 pounds. It is also evident that the juniors are having a big influence on dairying in their communities. For example, in

Pleasant Valley, which has one of the first clubs organized in the State, at least 50 per cent of the farmers now have purebred bulls, whereas when the calf club was organized the community had no purebred bulls. There are a number of instances where the boy with his calf has influenced the father to weigh his milk and improve the producing quality of his herd.

The effect of club work on dairying is also shown in the report of the State club leader of Arkansas regarding 4-H activities in Sebastian County:

We shipped in a car of 26 purebred Jersey calves from Michigan for the purpose of raising the standard of the milk cow in Sebastian County. The membership in the calf club was not confined to boys; some of their fathers joined. Now we have a great rivalry between the boys and the men, with the boys leading a little on account of their getting first choice of the heifers when they came. We have organized a testing association composed of the boys and their fathers and will have a complete record on production next year. The members of this club are weeding out the scrubs and replacing them with purebreds. The boys at Union Grove say that every scrub must leave the farm in five years. The boys' calf club has done more than anything else to build up the dairy business in the county through interesting the farmers in better cattle.

In 1924 more than 22,000 boys and girls were enrolled as members of dairy-calf clubs, and reports received from 65 per cent of them showed the ownership of 14,413 calves and heifers.

BABy BEEF CATTLE

Not all farm enterprises are suited for club projects, but the feeding and marketing of baby bees have proved to be most satisfactory to club members. Membership in a baby-beef club satisfies the desire for ownership, usually returns a fair profit, and results are obtained in a period of less than a year. Practices to be demonstrated have been well worked out and adequate opportunity is afforded for competition, both in making exhibits and in judging. The fattened calf is easily marketed. Although the returns from the sale of beef cattle have not been very satisfactory to the producer, the farm boys and girls have continued to demonstrate the economical production of baby bees. They have found that a narrow margin of profit can be obtained through the careful application of improved practices. The educational value of the correct feeding of beef cattle has usually been the largest portion of the reward.

The 10-year period has witnessed a marked improvement in the quality of the finished animals (fig. 12). Packers and butchers have joined with interested business men to encourage the young people in this project. The Union Stockyards at Chicago held weekly during 1924 a sale of baby bees shipped by club members. Packers have encouraged young people to continue in the work by paying a premium for good animals. The Interstate Fair at Sioux City has been holding an annual sale of club calves. Leading business men and packers vie with each other in bidding for the prize stock. The prize-winning animal last year sold at 80 cents per pound. A unique club exhibit has been held at the South St. Paul Stockyards, at which only meat animals fed by club members are exhibited. At the close of the exhibit, a sale is held in which top prices are paid for quality products. A program and banquet are attended by packers, business men, breeders, and club members. Festivities last-

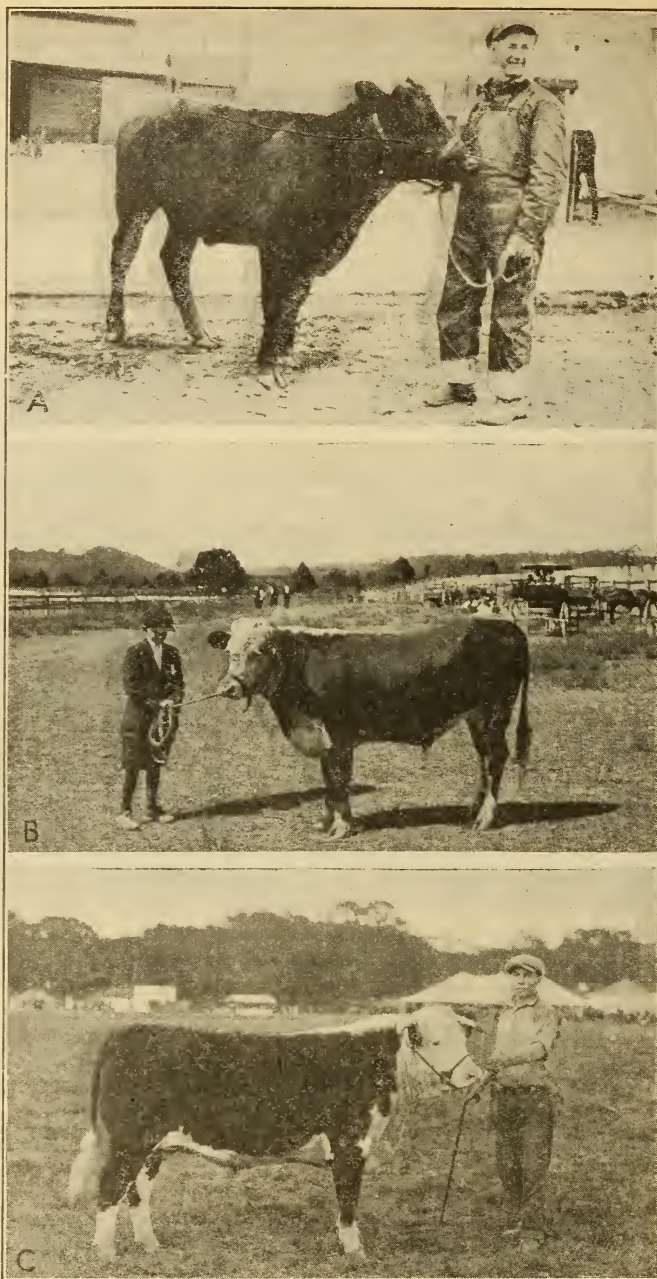


FIG. 12.—Type of beef cattle grown by club members in 1914, 1919, and 1924. Although these animals are not indicative of the general improvement in the type of baby beeves marketed, they are illustrative of the quality of stock that boys and girls may produce with proper leadership and direction. The illustrations show clearly that club work has made progress, principally because the boys and girls have shown such interest and aptitude in caring for livestock that bankers and parents are willing to intrust quality animals to them

ing a week are built around the club work in Minnesota. Similar sales and meetings are held in Kansas City, Kans., Denver, Colo., Portland, Oreg., and Springfield, Mass.

Although the feeding of beef animals is not considered a girl's job about the farm, 884 girls were members of baby-beef clubs, which indicates that the future home makers desire an intelligent understanding of the feeding practices in beef production. Reports received from 5,100 of the 7,014 boys and girls enrolled showed that 5,958 baby beeves were fed in demonstrations.

POULTRY

Poultry demonstrations have a strong appeal for both boys and girls. They are especially suited to the needs of young people, as the initial investment is small, the reward for skillful management is adequate, and the product is easily marketed. Nearly 4,700 poultry clubs were organized in 1924 with a membership of 38,541 boys and 51,921 girls. Reports received from 21,842 boys and 29,197 girls showed that they managed 599,513 birds, or an average of 12 birds per member reporting. Some of the practices demonstrated by the young people were the hatching and feeding of chicks, feeding for egg production, and the carrying out of sanitary measures.

The following story by a poultry-club member from the 1924 report of the State Club Leader of Maryland is typical:

I have been interested in poultry since I was a small boy. About seven or eight years ago I joined a poultry club. My brother was interested in poultry also, so we decided to go into partnership. At that time we had about 25 hens. We immediately took full charge of them, and have continued doing so from that time until the present. The following year we doubled our number of hens. Instead of furnishing the eggs for home use free, we collected for them in the form of feed and equipment. In this way Dad financed the business, and has continued to do so. In fact, without his aid we could not have been as successful as we have been. The next year we raised 100 pullets, thus making our total 125, having sold 25 hens.

With the help of the county agricultural agent and the State experiment station we were able to learn the best methods of poultry raising. We sprouted oats so as to have green feed for them in the winter, and mixed our own feed according to formulas sent out by the United States Department of Agriculture. The next year we increased our total number of hens to about 300.

Under the direction of W. H. Rickey, who was then State poultry specialist, we began to cull out the unprofitable hens. That summer Mr. Rickey had several of the members of our club give culling demonstrations at Timonium fair and we were among that group of demonstrators.

At that time we had a flock of 500 birds and were interested enough to go further in the business. As it was impossible to do this at home, we convinced Dad of the advisability of buying a small farm. We found a 15-acre place which was ideal for our purpose. We moved in the early spring and had to rush in order to prepare for the baby chicks. The next fall, after culling, our flock numbered 500. That winter we got better prices for our eggs by shipping them to New York. While demonstrating at College Park on farmers' day the summer before, we learned a new method of grading eggs, which helped us to get a higher price for them. During that summer I also attended a short course for club members at College Park, and got helpful information about poultry raising and about club work in general.

We started 2,500 baby chicks that spring. The cockerels were sold in the summer for enough money to pay the expense of raising the pullets. That fall we had about 1,000 birds to carry over, which gave us about as much work as we could do while going to school. However, we managed to do both successfully.

Because of necessary housing improvements, we did not raise any baby chicks during the past year, but expect to start with 3,000 in the coming spring. We have about 600 laying hens at the present time, and they are doing as much as one can expect of old hens. We started a market for our eggs in Baltimore by putting them in special cartons and guaranteeing them not to be over 4 days old. In this way we get more money for them, and in spite of the advanced price, we can not supply the demand.

Often I am asked how much we make from our poultry business. The only possible answer at present is that we enlarge the business. We are always getting better equipment and continually increasing the flock. But the best factor of all is that we have established a business which will be ready for us when we have finished school. There is no doubt but that anyone may be successful in the poultry business, provided it is properly regulated and is not neglected. Anyone who continues to work his way up, increasing year by year, and making use of good advice from those who have succeeded, can certainly be successful.



FIG. 13.—Typical club member and his herd of purebred Hampshire pigs. During 1924 reports from 19,115 boys and 2,074 girls indicated that 60,377 pigs were grown, or an average of about 3 per club member

PIGS

Pork production involves many problems in feeding, breeding, and management. The farm boy has shown a preference for pig demonstrations (fig. 13). It was one of the earliest animal projects organized for young people. The feeding of protein supplement, green-pasture crops, and mineral mixtures, and the production of economical, rapid gains have been among the things demonstrated by club members. During 1924, 2,789 pig clubs were organized with a membership of 34,448 boys and 3,872 girls. Reports received from 21,189 boys and girls show that each club member owned an average of about three pigs.

The following extract from the 1924 report of the county agricultural agent of Tulare County, Calif., shows how breeders cooperate with club members in some communities:

The purebred-gilt club started at Tulare on December 22, 1923, and was completed on November 1, 1924. The gilts in this club were furnished by the

Tagus Ranch on a return contract. Each boy raises his gilt, breeds her to one of the Tagus Ranch sires, and at weaning time half of the litter goes back to the Tagus Ranch as pay for the original gilt.

The first part of the club was completed on November 1, 1924, as a growing-out contest and not as a sow-and-litter contest. There were 10 boys starting, of whom 9 completed their demonstrations. Results with the nine gilts were as follows:

Item	Value at start	Value at end	Gain in weight	Daily gain
Average.....	\$20	\$83.33	<i>Pounds</i> 365.55	<i>Pounds</i> 1.16
Total.....	180	750.00	3,290	10.44

The boys all exhibited their gilts on November 8 at the Tagus Ranch, competing for honors in the growing-out contest, and all gilts were left there to be bred. The Tagus Ranch gave the winner a silver cup; the boy winning second, a silver medal; and third, a bronze medal.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

The increased interest in nutrition and health has aroused corresponding interest in food-club activities. Although food clubs began with the baking of bread and the hot school lunch, with the enlargement of the extension program to include nutrition and health, there were introduced in these clubs various phases of food preparation, conservation, and serving, accompanied by a practical consideration of the nutritive values of food. With the development of the height-weight standards for boys and girls, attention was focused on food habits in relation to health. For several years food-habits score cards have been used to stimulate interest and to aid in measuring the results of food-club demonstrations. They have been found to be especially helpful in determining the food-club programs which are formulated by club members in open meeting. As a result, such programs are emphasizing the greater use of milk, fruits, and vegetables—particularly leafy vegetables—and bran-containing cereals.

Health contests at fairs, expositions, short courses, and camps have emphasized dietary standards and the fact that health is largely under the control of each individual. In most States, the food-habits score cards have been used in connection with contests in which both boys and girls participate, irrespective of the particular type of demonstration being conducted. The account of the Hallville Club of Exeter, R. I., is typical of what is being done in some sections of the country in stimulating a keen interest in physical fitness:

The first club in the State to report its members 100 per cent normal in weight was the Hallville Club of Exeter. Although slight variations were found from the average normal weight, they were all well within the 7 per cent under or 15 per cent overweight allowance. On checking upon the food habits, it was found that 2 members had scores of 75 per cent, 1 of 80 per cent, 2 of 85 per cent, 1 of 90 per cent, and 1 of 95 per cent. These high scores explain the excellent health of the members.

In a number of States "supper clubs" have been popular among farm girls. After the club members have become skillful in food preparation and meal planning, a series of suppers is arranged at which two or more members of the club prepare and serve a well-planned meal to club members and friends. This is repeated until

each member of the club has an opportunity to take a responsible part. The plan is varied in some communities by permitting each club member to be responsible for some part of the meal. The supper meetings, under the direction of parents and local leaders, in addition to their demonstrational value, have a social phase which adds much to community life. An example of the demonstrational value of food clubs is cited in the report of the State girls' club agent of Georgia, which states that, "In Morgan County one club girl taught practically all of the women of the community how to make yeast bread."

The varied lines of activity of food clubs are shown in the organization of the lunch-box club in Massachusetts which has the following requirements for the year:

Attend club meetings.	Plan six luncheon menus.
Pack at least 50 lunches.	Score one's own food habits.
Use six varieties of sandwich fillings.	Exhibit one packed lunch.
Make 10 milk dishes.	Keep a record.
Score five packed lunches.	Write a story of club experience.
Take part in one public demonstration.	

In 1924, 13,431 food-preparation and nutrition clubs functioned with a membership of 157,353 girls and 10,662 boys. Of this number 80,258 completed their demonstrations and made a report to the county extension agent.

FOOD PRESERVATION

The growing of a garden and the canning of surplus vegetables were among the first projects organized by extension agents. The work done before the war met a nation-wide need when the factory output of canned and preserved food was needed for the fighting forces. In normal times canning and preserving of food in the farm home are the foundation upon which a health program may be organized. Progress has been made in food-preservation work. The earlier practice of canning the surplus has given way to the food-preservation budget, in which the food needs of the farm family are surveyed and adequate quantities of fruits, vegetables, and meats are canned (fig. 14).

Much emphasis, particularly in the Southern States, has been placed on the standardization of canned products for the market and the making of special pickle mixtures. During the last few years increased interest has been manifested in the growing and packing of pimientos for market. The preparation of high-standard canned products for a special trade has proved a worth-while phase of the canning-club program, especially where farm girls require an individual income to meet their requirements for personal needs and education.

In 1924, 4,654 food-preservation clubs were organized with an enrollment of 83,419 girls and 726 boys. Reports were received from 43,971 girls and 482 boys who completed their demonstrations.

The following excerpt from the report of the State leader of Iowa is typical of food-preservation work.

Fayette County club girls have been given one of the prominent places on the farm-bureau program for the last two years. The clubs are all standard organizations. The girls in each township meet once every two weeks during

the summer and fall and in the winter once a month in accordance with the program which they formulated at the beginning of the year. They carry on their activities in a very businesslike way, having officers and conducting regular business meetings. At each meeting a demonstration is put on by two of the club girls. In this way every girl gets an opportunity to do some of the actual work.

The results of the canning clubs can best be told by giving the absolute figures on what the girls have done. Of the 58 girls that started in the club, 39 completed their demonstrations and submitted complete, well-written records. These 39 girls canned a total of 2,901½ quarts of fruit and vegetables, 572½ quarts of meat, and 38½ quarts of jelly at a cost of \$660.30. The store value of the canned goods amounted to \$1,933.58, a saving of \$1,273.28. The club held 43 meetings with an attendance of 508 and displayed one of the most outstanding exhibits at the county fair.



FIG. 14.—County club agent discussing with 4-H club girls various phases of food preservation, such as planning a budget to provide an adequate and diversified diet for the entire family for the year; methods of canning surplus fruits, vegetables, and meats; standardization of packs and products; and marketing. During 1924, 4,654 food-preservation clubs were organized, and 43,971 girls and 482 boys reported the preservation of 2,562,641 quarts and 283,505 pounds of food products

The following is a typical story of food preservation written by a canning club girl in Mitchell County, Ga.

About four years ago Miss Mortimer Schley came to our county to organize a girls' canning club. When she came to Pebble City she told us about her work and what she was going to do. She told us that we could join either the canning or the poultry club. When I went home that afternoon I told mother about Miss Schley and what she was going to do. As I was only 12 years of age, mother told me that I was too young to join. I told her to let me join and I would do my very best to carry my plans out. After talking with father about it she told me I could join.

The next day Miss Schley came to Pebble City and asked for the names of the girls who wanted to join. Then she brought some tomato and pimento seeds and a record book. She also told us how to plant the seeds and how to keep the record. I tried to do just as she said. In July we had a short course at Hopeful, which five girls from Pebble City attended. At the short

course Miss Schley taught us how to can tomatoes, creole sauce, and many other things. That year I canned from my garden 960 pounds of tomatoes and 189 pounds of beans, and sold lots of them fresh. My pimento plat was a failure but I was not discouraged and joined the next year, too.

That year 42 girls from Pebble City joined the club. I planted tomatoes, beans, and pimentos. As a result, I was able to can 630 pounds of tomatoes and 96 pounds of beans. In June we had a club rally at Camilla, at which Pebble City was represented. We used a float made on a wagon and decorated with purple crepe paper. Then we won a pennant for having the most girls in our clubs of any in the county. The first of the year we rented a house and fixed it up for the club.

The next year I joined again. That year the rainy weather nearly ruined my crop and it was almost a failure. I entered the bread contest and made the best biscuits of any girl in the county. This year I joined again and planted a perennial garden. In my perennial garden I have grapevines and

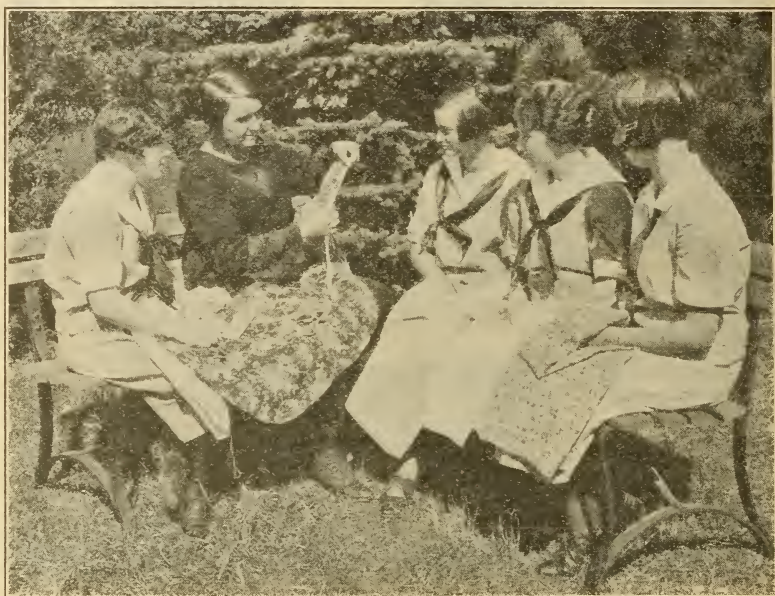


FIG. 15.—Local leader showing club girls how to make their own clothing. During 1924, 173,545 girls were enrolled in clothing clubs, and 100,702 completed their demonstrations and reported having made 321,995 articles of clothing

fig, peach, pecan, and plum trees. I have canned peaches, marmalades, pickles, preserves, conserves, grape butter, grape juice, tomatoes, beans, and many other kinds of fruits and vegetables.

We rented a house and made another clubhouse. In it we have two oil stoves, two large tables, and many other useful things. This year I am exhibiting three phases of my club work. My grape exhibit will be sent to Macon. I will receive my certificate in club work. I certainly have enjoyed being a club member and will encourage others to join.

CLOTHING

Clothing construction and care and selection of garments, particularly in relation to color and design, have had a universal appeal to country girls (fig. 15). The desire to be suitably dressed at a minimum cost has been an evidence of thrift and sound management.

The increased cost of ready-made garments has created an unprecedented demand for assistance in the organization of clothing clubs. The clothing club has expanded from the earlier sewing clubs to include the clothing budget, the selection of materials, appropriate color and design, selection of shoes, and the making of hats. The so-called style shows organized by club girls have become a regular part of the clothing-club program in many States. At these events properly fitted shoes and correct posture are emphasized equally with the other phases of the clothing program.

In 1924, 173,545 girls and 457 boys were enrolled in the 10,558 clothing clubs. Reports and stories of the club work were received from 100,702 girls and 185 boys who made in all 321,995 articles of clothing.

The following extract from the California club report illustrates the practical nature of the clothing-club demonstration as well as the work of the local leader:

At the February, 1924, county home-department committee meeting, the home demonstration club idea was discussed. Committee members were asked to consider the possibility of organizing girls' clubs in their centers and report to the home demonstration agent. The result was that two clubs were organized in Contra Costa County, one in the east and one in the west end. The west-side club was located at La Fayette and was a part of the Walnut Creek farm center. The east-side club included two centers, Lone Tree and Live Oak; and was called the Lone Tree Club.

Both clubs were well supervised by their leaders, Mrs. Berta Hammond, of Lone Tree, and Mrs. M. M. Garrett, of La Fayette. At each meeting the girls worked under the leaders' instruction and plans were made for home work between meetings. Since these club girls were all attending school, the work between meetings was quite limited, but the attendance at meetings was good. The home demonstration agent assisted with one pattern and two dress meetings. The club leaders taught darning, mending, and the making of slips and dresses.

Mrs. Garrett, the La Fayette club leader, held a club meeting once a week. She met the girls at the schoolhouse every Friday with her car, took them 5 miles to her ranch where she gave the instruction, and then took them home. The girl who was the most unpromising at first was the best in the end: she had never used a thimble and, in fact, had sewed very little. The slip she made was faulty, but her dress was excellent and the best of the five. The girl judged as the third best really received the most benefit. She began at the beginning of sewing and struggled along without encouragement at home, but with much from the club. Her efforts showed in the shape of two well-made dresses for herself and two slips, one for herself and one for her younger sister.

One result was the opportunity given the two best girls of a trip to Davis, where the club winners of the State had a two-day convention. They gave a demonstration before 40 other club girls on the method of cutting a dress from the guide pattern. A further result was the request that sewing be taught in the three-room school at La Fayette. If these five girls learned so much, why not give the opportunity to all the girls of the community? The influence of the club has spread not only to the entire school at La Fayette but also to other farm centers.

HOME MANAGEMENT

The home-making instinct in farm girls has manifested itself in the home-management clubs that have been developed during the last five years. Many different activities have been undertaken by the members of these clubs. Among the most outstanding have been learning how to do household tasks sufficiently well to allow mother to take a much-needed vacation and making the home a more satis-

fying place in which to live. The desire to make the home attractive has led the farm girl to start with her own room. Walls have been redecorated, furniture refinished, room furnishings made, and clothes closets improved. A single room in the home decorated in restful colors with furniture refinished to harmonize has had its influence on the improvement of the remainder of the house. It has manifested itself in kitchen rearrangement, the use of satisfying floor coverings and window curtains, and the selection of furniture of simple but pleasing design. During 1924, 25,418 farm girls were enrolled in home-management clubs and 8,385 completed their demonstrations and submitted written reports.

The county club agent of Addison County, Vt., reported as follows:

The town of Weybridge has a 4-H girls' organization known as the Hilltop room club, composed of nine girls, 15 to 16 years of age, who are carrying out a room-improvement program under the leadership of an enthusiastic community worker, Mrs. B. O. Wales. The members, leader, and myself recently went on a tour to inspect the rooms. Gladys Bean's room, which was formerly papered and painted with dark green, is now decorated with paper having a narrow rose stripe and the woodwork has been painted ivory. Three chairs, bed, commode, and table have also been painted ivory. Ecu scrim curtains with drawn-in threads of rose, supplemented by rose-flowered overdraperies, adorn the windows. Cracks in the floor, almost too large to be filled, suggested the use of a light-tan linoleum. Gladys had a quaint rug almost completed for bedside use.

Irene Jewett carried out a gray-and-rose color scheme. She used a light-gray striped paper with narrow rose-flowered border, painted the woodwork white, the floor gray, and whitewashed the ceiling. The furniture—including the bed, stand, commode, dresser, mirror, and two chairs—was painted white. Cross-bar curtains were hung at the windows and over these rose-and-gray flowered cretonne overdraperies, the edges of which were finished with a double 1-inch band of plain rose. A box, deep enough to provide space for a shelf, was fastened to the wall behind the door, sufficiently high to hang garments from hooks attached to the bottom. The whole arrangement was covered with hangings of the same cretonne used for overdrapes. A long, narrow box, ideal for storage of shoes and giving the appearance of a window seat, was painted white, with top upholstered in cretonne fastened by a narrow band of plain rose.

Gertrude Bingham's room was completely changed from its dull dark-brown tones by the use of a light rose and gray striped paper with narrow flowered border. At the windows, which she herself had puttied, were hung new white shades and hemstitched voile curtains. Woodwork, floor, and furniture, consisting of two beds, commode, two chairs, mirror, dresser, stand, and chest, were painted in shades of gray. One of the bright spots of the room was a bookcase made from a box covered with rose-flowered cretonne curtains.

Ruth James removed three layers of paper from the walls of her room and tinted them light gray. The border line was filled with a narrow, rather dark border in shades of blue and gold. The woodwork and floors are gray. Her furniture is especially attractive from the antique viewpoint. Above the dresser hangs a delightful gilt-framed mirror with quaint old painting on top. Near the window is a rather spacious study table with a row of books across the back and blotter in the front. The curtains were white cross-bar with overdraperies of plain blue Japanese crêpe. The spread made from bleached material is embroidered in a French-knot design of roses in shades of rose, blue, and green. Stand and dresser covers and pillowcases were made to match. On the floor are two attractive rugs in shades of blue, gray, and rose. Touches of color are also supplied by blue candles in gray candlesticks on the dresser.

The work done by these girls has been hard and tiresome, especially that in the beginning of the year, but the enthusiasm, interest, and perseverance of each individual never has waned. They have ideal rooms and an ideal club spirit.

BEAUTIFICATION OF HOME GROUNDS

The external appearance of farm homes and the plantings about them are among the standards by which the community is judged. Increased interest and attention have been given to home beautification, particularly in the Southern States. Both boys and girls have enrolled in home-beautification clubs. The planting of perennial gardens, the use of native shrubs and plants, and the whitewashing of fences have done much to reflect the prosperity of that region. During 1924, 33,667 farm girls and 1,288 boys were enrolled in 689 clubs featuring the beautification of home grounds, and 12,766 boys and girls reported that they had completed their demonstrations.

CLUB DEVELOPMENTS

SOCIAL PHASES

Although club work is based on the demonstration conducted by the boy or girl on the farm or in the home, the training for more efficient citizenship has been one of the outstanding results. Young people in clubs have learned to use parliamentary procedure; they have learned to express themselves intelligently at a meeting; and they have learned to participate in wholesome play and contests for the social advantages they afford. They have learned to enjoy club songs and yells and in their youthful enthusiasm have developed hundreds of songs that have been passed from club to club and are known from coast to coast. During 1924 several of the colleges assembled these club songs in book form and made them available for club meetings. Although many of them are adaptations of popular melodies or old folk songs, they have come to be recognized as the popular expression of the open country and are finding their way into many rural gatherings.

CAMPS AND FESTIVALS

For many years city boys and girls have been given the opportunity to camp in the open during the summer season. The club movement has been responsible for the extension of this ideal summer recreation to the rural boy and girl. The demand for better training in demonstration work has been largely responsible for the introduction of the camp into the club program. It has saved the time of extension workers and has given the boy and girl an opportunity to study and play with a large number of other boys and girls with the same interests. Although the camp idea for farm boys is as old as the club movement itself, having been used by A. P. Grout of Winchester, Ill., as early as 1902, it did not come into general use until after the World War. In 1924, 1,774 4-H club camps were held, with an attendance of 52,697 club boys and 61,273 club girls. Nearly 100,000 additional boys and girls not in club work attended the camps and received the instruction.

At typical club camps the informal character of the morning instruction and the large attendance make it inadvisable to attempt to give instruction to all members at one time by a single instructor. For convenience and efficiency it has been a common practice to divide club camps into several groups. The class periods are a

half hour each with a five-minute intermission between classes. Each instructor repeats his instruction five times during the morning, meeting a new group each half hour. The remainder of the day is given over to recreation and rest. Grouping of individuals is made to meet the requirements of the game or the nature of the service, such as stunts about the camp fire.

In addition to the county camps on streams and in fairgrounds, more pretentious camps have been organized at State fairs, State agricultural colleges, and experiment stations. The club camp at the experiment station at Davis, Calif., has been a model tent camp. The camps at Huron, S. Dak., Sioux City, Iowa, and Springfield, Mass., are typical of permanent camps at fairs and expositions.

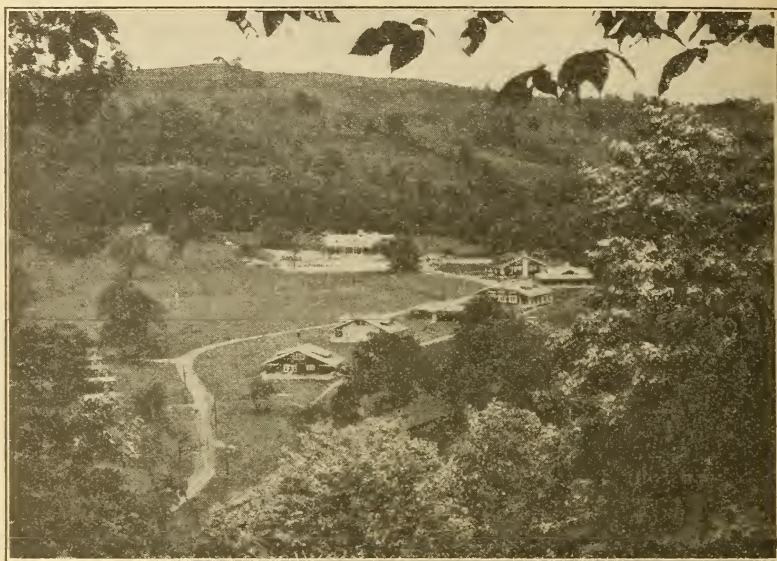


FIG. 16.—State 4-H club camp at Jacksons Mill, W. Va. At such camps instruction in farming and home making is combined with healthful recreation, and farm boys and girls are given training for their economic, physical, intellectual, spiritual, and social welfare, thus developing them into good citizens with larger vision and greater usefulness. (Photograph furnished by West Virginia Extension Service)

More pretentious camps with permanent buildings and grounds under the direction of the State agricultural colleges have been established at Jacksons Mill, W. Va., and Athens, Ga. (fig. 16).

SHORT COURSES

The outstanding service to agriculture and home economics rendered by boys and girls in 4-H clubs and their interest in obtaining additional information have led to an extensive development of short courses for club members at State agricultural colleges. Courses of one or two weeks' duration are usually held when they do not interfere with the regular college work, either during the Christmas holidays, the spring vacation, or in the interim between the spring session of the scholastic year and the summer school. Attendance at short courses has varied from 150 to 2,500. The expense

for travel to and from short courses often has been paid by interested citizens as prizes for excellence in club demonstrations. An interesting departure from the usual practice has been developed in Iowa, where each club earned sufficient money to send one or more members of the club to the short course in 1924. More than 300 club members had their expenses paid in this way.

DEMONSTRATION TEAMS

Previous to 1914, articles in the local newspapers and contests were almost the only means used to call to the attention of the people the results obtained by boys' and girls' clubs. These agencies were effective but did not develop responsibility on the part of the young people themselves for bringing public attention to their work. When the Smith-Lever Act became effective, plans were made to train from three to five boys or girls as a team to demonstrate simple methods used by them in carrying out the enterprise in which they were enrolled. The making of bread, the cutting and fitting of a dress, the selection and preparation of potatoes for planting, and simple grafting, are some of the demonstrations given by such teams. Many demonstration teams wear uniforms and present a pleasing appearance in keeping with practices demonstrated.

The entertainment programs of many rural clubs and community gatherings have been made more attractive and educational through including demonstrations by such teams. By repeating demonstrations several times in local communities many people have been given an opportunity to learn simple methods of improving farm and home practices. The outstanding demonstration work in the last decade has been in canning and food preservation. The girls have been so successful and energetic in presenting home canning that practically every rural home maker has seen or heard something of this activity of the 4-H clubs. The teaching of improved practices by demonstration teams has also developed into a wholesome recreation for young people, broadening their social outlook.

In connection with demonstration-team activities, there have been organized local club contests, county-wide contests, and State and interstate contests. Such contests have been recreational as well as educational, teaching fair play and fine sportmanship, and broadening the viewpoint of the team members. Nearly 10,000 junior judging teams gave exhibitions at community meetings, county, State, and interstate fairs during 1924. Contests between teams have aroused community interest and wholesome rivalry that have done much to attract the attention of people to the improved practices demonstrated.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP

Demonstration clubs organized before the passage of the Smith-Lever Act were largely in charge of county superintendents of schools and rural teachers. As 4-H clubs became more appreciated, leading farmers and farm women in the communities supporting the movement supplied the leadership while the teacher was away on vacation. With the development of community programs and the concentration of the efforts of men, women, boys, and girls on community problems, the adult farmers and farm women began to participate more actively as local leaders. It was not then believed

that older boys and girls could direct the activities of a club. However, experiments in junior leadership, conducted in Massachusetts, California, and Arkansas, surprised the State leaders and county extension agents with the efficient and enthusiastic leadership of the older boys and girls. Junior leadership for demonstration clubs was accepted as a desirable practice during the war period and has increased in volume and effectiveness since that time. The training school for junior leaders is now an important part of the club program in a number of States. Minnesota trained more than 400 in 1924. A training school for junior leadership for the Eastern States was established in 1923 at Springfield, Mass., at the expense of a public-spirited citizen.

A national trophy is awarded annually to the boy or girl in the United States outstanding in community service and junior leadership. This trophy was won by Ford Mercer of Oklahoma in 1924. It is interesting to note that this prize went to the State where junior leadership of clubs is the prevailing practice in club organization. Nor have club girls been lacking in leadership qualities. In this competition the second and third places were won by girls from Washington and Wisconsin.

The accomplishments that enabled Ford Mercer to win the national trophy follow:

(1) He won his father to 4-H club work through corn demonstrations.

(2) He has been a demonstrator in all the club projects in his community.

(3) He enrolled additional members in his home community and helped them to succeed.

(4) He put himself through high school.

(5) He was State pig-club champion in 1921.

(6) He was coach of judging and demonstration teams during 1923-24.

(7) He won the sweepstakes championship in open classes in corn for five successive years.

(8) He has completed 16 club demonstrations with a net income of \$1,317.70.

(9) He has made 42 exhibits and won \$314 in prizes.

(10) He has taken part in 30 club-judging contests and won first place in 25 of them.

(11) He was president of the county federation of clubs and assumed a large part of the responsibility for the organization work in his county.

COUNTY CLUB AGENTS NEEDED

The experience of the last 10 years in the organization and conduct of 4-H clubs indicates that the future development of local leadership and of 4-H club work itself will depend to a great extent on the number of trained extension agents in the counties who are available to supervise and direct club activities. Such supervision and direction by county extension agents are of three general types, varying largely on the basis of funds available and the public support given extension work in the county. In a county employing only one extension agent, this agent is usually an agricultural agent, all of the

work with both adults and juniors being directed by him. Where the county has both an agricultural agent and a home demonstration agent, the former directs the work with men and boys and the latter that with women and girls. In counties where sufficient funds are available, three agents may be employed, one of whom is a club agent working exclusively with boys and girls. Where this type of organization exists, the agricultural agent directs the work with men, the home demonstration agent that with women, and the club agent that with boys and girls, each being responsible for his own field of activity.

From the very beginning of club work, a few counties in the Northern and Western States have employed such county club agents. In Southern States it has been the general practice, when conditions permitted, to employ a third agent as an assistant to either the agricultural agent or the home demonstration agent, according to the needs of the work in the county. The number of county extension agents working exclusively with boys and girls has decreased in recent years because of lack of funds and because in administering cooperative extension work as a whole it has been considered advisable to complete the county agricultural agent system first.

Conceding the importance of boys' and girls' 4-H club work, the experience of the past 10 years leaves little doubt as to the advantage of having an extension agent or agents in a county working exclusively with boys and girls, when the results are compared with those obtained where part time only has been given to club work by the agent or agents employed. The club agent, whether in independent charge of club work in the county or working as an assistant to the agricultural agent or the home demonstration agent, has been able to concentrate on the particular problems that arise in carrying through club projects and has given them especial attention. On the other hand, the agent giving only part time to club activities must often look on them merely as side lines to his work with adults.

To determine the value of employing club agents, as compared with the handling of club activities by other extension workers, a study was made covering results obtained among boys and girls in 33 Northern and Western States during 1920, 1921, and 1922. The statistical results of this study are given in Table 2.

TABLE 2.—Comparison of 4-H club work of extension agents in 33 Northern and Western States, 1920, 1921, and 1922

Item	County club agent	County agricultural agent	County home demonstration agent
1920:			
Agents reporting.....	148	1,191	288
Members enrolled.....	68,957	72,848	14,772
Percentage of completions.....	65	54	47
1921:			
Agents reporting.....	126	1,249	267
Members enrolled.....	74,307	78,784	13,776
Percentage of completions.....	72	57	52
1922:			
Agents reporting.....	157	1,288	271
Members enrolled.....	75,680	81,222	19,560
Percentage of completions.....	72	59	45

The data obtained from this study show that the number of club members enrolled per year per club agent reporting was 508, as compared with 62 for the county agricultural agent and 58 for the home demonstration agent. The greater average enrollment and percentage of completions obtained by club agents devoting full time to boys and girls indicate that such agents are far more successful in maintaining interest and effort on the part of club members than agents who give only part time.

There is also the problem of dealing with both child and adult psychology in order to enlist the interest of a boy or girl. A different approach is required than that used in interesting the father or mother, and different methods are necessary to maintain such interest when aroused. The agent concentrating on methods of gain-



FIG. 17.—Typical club members who are aiding rural betterment by spreading the gospel of better farm and home practices. Of the 11,000,000 rural boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18, about 27 per cent of whom are out of school, 4—11 club work is reaching but 1 in 22. Although the results obtained have been most gratifying, the great task is to reach the 960 farm boys and girls under 18 in the average county out of school and guide them into worth-while channels of thought and action.

ing and holding the interest of farm boys and girls has necessarily proved more successful in carrying on club work than the agent working with both adults and juniors.

OUTLOOK

Although work with boys and girls has been extended by 2,838 county extension agents out of 3,446 doing extension work, and the results obtained have been most gratifying, there is still much to be done (fig. 17). The great task before us at the end of the first 10 years of cooperative extension work under the Smith-Lever Act is well outlined in a paper presented by C. B. Smith, chief of the Office of Cooperative Extension Work, before the meeting of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges, Chicago, Ill., November 18, 1925:

THE CLUB PROBLEM

We have about 11,000,000 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 in the rural districts of the United States, nearly 3,000,000 of whom, or about 27 per cent, are not in school. The greater number not in school are between the ages of 14 and 18. That is a group nearly half as large as the farmers of the United States. These young people are out of school for various reasons—some because their parents want them to work, some because they are tired of school and do not want to attend, some because they do not think an education pays, and some because they do not get along well in school. For one reason or another they are out of school, and out at just the most critical time in their lives. Boys and girls 14, 15, and 16 years old, just changing to manhood and womanhood, usually possessed with the belief that they know a good deal more than either father or mother, and not inclined to heed their counsel, often difficult to manage, are out of school and receiving no guidance from any public agency whatever. How shall we continue their education along right lines? Can we give them any guidance?

The public-school system contemplates giving free instruction to young people for 12 years, or between the ages of 6 to 18. Yet nearly 1,000 rural boys and girls per county—an average of 960—are out of school and away from its influence. Stated in a more graphic way, this is the equivalent of about 20 one-room, 40-pupil schools per county, practically without a single teacher. How can we continue to guide and educate this group?

The State agricultural college is peculiarly interested in rural problems. It is an educational institution. It would seem that these 3,000,000 rural boys and girls out of school in the rural districts of the United States are especially its concern and that of the State. Under the guidance of the agricultural college, and aided by the counties and the people themselves, we should consciously go about reaching, influencing, guiding, and continuing to educate this group.

HOW 4-H CLUBS REACH THE BOYS AND GIRLS

The college has already shown one way of handling the matter, and that is through boys' and girls' 4-H club work. What does this club work do? It seeks to get hold of rural boys and girls and give them guidance; to bring them in contact with and to teach them some of the inspiring things in agriculture and the home; to give them vision of its possibilities as a life job; to give them a part in solving the rural community's problems; to get close to them through actually working with them on things that interest them; to teach them how to work together, play together, cooperate, accomplish. It teaches them, not out of books, but out of the living things of the fields, the woods, the orchard, the home. It gives them actual training in conducting meetings along orderly and parliamentary lines, in making exhibits at fairs, in carrying on team demonstrations, in earning money and acquiring property. It brings them in contact with the trained men and women of the colleges, the farm, and the town—men and women of vision. It impresses the need of the trained mind and hand if one is to succeed, thus creating in them a desire to finish school, go to college, or otherwise fit themselves for life's work.

CLUBS HELP ESPECIALLY OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

Although I would not deny to any boy or girl in school the benefits of club work, I am firm in the faith that we should especially seek to reach and guide through it the boy and girl who has dropped out of school and who is without any public guidance and often idly drifting. Neither the Nation, the State, the county, the community, nor the individual father or mother wants to or can afford to let them drift. What concrete thing do we need? We need one or more boys' and girls' club agents or assistant agents in every rural county of the United States to give his or her whole time to the promotion of 4-H club work. The average rural county employs from 125 to 150 rural teachers for the boys and girls in school. Shall we not employ at least one man or woman for the 960 boys and girls out of school?

For those in school, we employ a teacher for each 30 to 40 pupils; surely the 960 out of school are entitled to some consideration, to at least one teacher. If the 960 were in school, we would not hesitate an instant to employ 12 or 15 teachers at a cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000. Shall we then hesitate to spend

a fourth of this sum for one teacher—the county extension agent—who takes the school to the pupils, if the pupils do not want to come to school? Can we abandon these young folks just because they do not like schools and do not fit into one form of educational mold?

I wonder if we ought not to adjust our educational system so that it shall consist of two parts, the teaching of those in school and the teaching of those out of school, now that we have found the way to reach those out of school.

To the agricultural colleges which are charged by the State and Nation with the better development of rural life and the continuing education of rural people, boys' and girls' club work should make a special appeal. Our agricultural commissions of various kinds, our captains of industry, and our representatives of farmers' organizations, all have pointed out the need of cooperation among farmers, if agriculture is to take and hold its rightful place in the affairs of the Nation. When shall we begin this cooperation? The answer is: Begin it with the child. When we wanted to abolish the saloons, we put the evil effects of alcohol in the textbooks of the schools and when that generation of children grew to manhood and womanhood, they put prohibition in the Constitution of the United States. 4-H club work teaches teamwork and cooperation as fundamental and shows how to accomplish. If we expect readiness of cooperation in adults, ought we not to commence with our young people? And how better have we learned to teach cooperation than through club work?

NEED FOR COUNTY CLUB AGENTS

The present need is for some form of continuing education for the 27 per cent of our rural boys and girls that are out of school. As a matter of national policy, the public should continue to give boys and girls, either in or out of school, guidance until they are 18 or 19 years old. As the twig is bent so the tree inclines. The Nation can not afford to abandon this group out of school. The people of the State should support the agricultural college in assuming this responsibility. The concrete suggestion here made is for an assistant to the county agricultural agent and home demonstration agent—at least one man or one woman—who will give his or her full time to the promotion of boys' and girls' club work in every thickly populated rural county in the Nation.

SUMMARY

Boys' and girls' 4-H club work has given definite instruction and practice to 5,000,000 young people since the Smith-Lever Act went into effect on July 1, 1914.

In 1924, 4-H club work was a part of the extension program of each of the 48 States. There were enrolled 510,355 boys and girls in 38,120 clubs.

About 38,000 adults acted as volunteer local leaders for these groups.

During the 10-year period club work has developed outstanding young men and women who have assumed the leadership of clubs. They have proved themselves so successful that widespread interest has been manifested by farmers, business men, bankers, and educators.

Farm organizations and business men have made large contributions for paid leadership, prizes, educational trips, and recreational camps.

The well-organized club with an adult leader in charge conducting regular meetings has provided excellent training in citizenship.

Training schools for local leaders have been conducted in a large number of counties. The increased attendance at these schools indicates a growing interest in 4-H clubs on the part of adults.

The census figures for 1920 show 960 farm boys and girls under 18 years of age out of school in the average county. These young people are in their most formative period. The club work can direct them into worth-while channels of thought and action.

The extension organization will require additional county workers if it is to undertake the task of organizing boys and girls out of school.

The success of the work during the last decade and the remarkable growth that has been made should serve as an incentive and challenge to the cooperative extension forces to make 4-H club work available to all boys and girls living on farms.

STATISTICS

TABLE 3.—*Clubs organized and number of different boys and girls enrolled and completed, 1924*¹

Junior clubs organized.....	38, 120
Enrollment:	
Different boys enrolled.....	209, 810
Different girls enrolled.....	300, 545
Total enrolling.....	510, 355
Completions:	
Different boys completing.....	116, 947
Different girls completing.....	166, 336
Total completing.....	283, 283

TABLE 4.—*Results of extension work with boys and girls, 1924, by projects as reported by all county extension agents*²

Project	Number of boys' and girls' clubs	Number of boys enrolled	Number of girls enrolled	Number of boys completing	Number of girls completing	Number of units involved	Quantity produced
Corn.....	2, 533	30, 249	1, 002	16, 793	530	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Bushels</i>
Wheat.....	54	1, 055	2	721	2	26, 036	812, 238
Oats.....	49	407	1	209	1	1, 391	34, 182
Rye.....	5	89	1	42	1	550	16, 761
Barley.....	17	133	6	73	1	65	1, 055
Other cereals.....	258	3, 944	76	1, 894	48	277	8, 516
Alfalfa.....	20	514	174	403	112	2, 352	55, 905
Soy beans.....	102	1, 084	27	790	21	224	
Sweet clover.....	10	98	10	75	10	1, 060 $\frac{1}{4}$	6, 919
Crimson clover.....	7	46		16		128	
Clover (red, alsike).....	8	14	3	14	3	34	
Cowpeas.....	56	947	10	728	5	45	
Velvet beans.....	25	552	10	321	6	1, 160	9, 673
Field beans.....	17	315	40	196	28	452	4, 187
Peanuts.....	348	3, 168	153	1, 621	60	1, 881 $\frac{1}{2}$	2, 626
Lespedeza.....	2	39		24		1, 742	43, 789
Pastures.....	10	99	1	59		48	
Other legumes.....	13	125	10	88	3	84	
Potatoes.....	877	12, 584	2, 181	8, 467	1, 255	109	1, 081
Sweet potatoes.....	279	2, 683	97	1, 396	45	3, 018 $\frac{1}{2}$	372, 940 $\frac{1}{2}$
						1, 113 $\frac{1}{4}$	86, 210
Cotton.....	1, 413	16, 504	638	9, 666	163		<i>Pounds</i>
Tobacco.....	49	866	33	510	3	14, 828	11, 042, 698
Other special crops.....	62	521	41	373	11	426	248, 246
						619	
Tree fruits.....	85	998	147	419	61		<i>Bushels</i>
						173 $\frac{3}{4}$	5, 476
Bush and small fruits.....	68	1, 415	194	243	114		<i>Quarts</i>
						60 $\frac{1}{4}$	26, 094
Grapes.....	17	155	28	77	9		<i>Pounds</i>
						76	182, 770
Market-gardening, truck, and canning crops.....	77	886	251	528	139		<i>Bushels</i>
Home gardens.....	3, 568	21, 280	66, 499	13, 668	28, 128	255 $\frac{3}{4}$	19, 549
Beautification of home grounds.....	689	1, 288	33, 667	676	12, 090	1, 169	77, 387
Forestry.....	73	401	8	213	5	<i>Animals</i>	
Dairy cattle.....	1, 772	14, 973	7, 224	10, 721	3, 738	14, 413	
Beef cattle.....	513	6, 130	884	4, 472	628	5, 958	
Hogs.....	2, 789	34, 448	3, 872	19, 115	2, 074	60, 377	
Sheep.....	373	2, 778	575	1, 922	393	10, 379	
Poultry.....	4, 692	38, 541	51, 921	21, 842	29, 197	599, 513	
Other livestock.....	280	2, 629	693	1, 227	340	1, 912	
Agricultural economics.....	811	9, 957	1, 916	5, 038	947		
Food preparation.....	10, 909	1, 467	102, 186	498	49, 948		

¹ One club may contain members enrolled in two or more subject-matter lines of work and be reported under more than one project heading. The sum of the project clubs is therefore greater than the number of different clubs organized.

² One club member may be enrolled in two or more clubs carrying on different subject-matter lines of work. The sum of the project enrollment is therefore greater than the number of different club members involved.

TABLE 4.—Results of extension work with boys and girls, 1924, by projects as reported by all county extension agents—Continued

Project	Number of boys and girls' clubs	Number of boys enrolled	Number of girls enrolled	Number of boys completing	Number of girls completing	Number of units involved	Quantity produced
Food preservation.....	4,654	726	83,419	482	43,971	<i>Quarts</i> 2,562.641 <i>Pounds</i> 283,505	-----
Nutrition.....	2,522	9,195	55,167	4,902	24,910	-----	-----
Clothing.....	10,558	457	173,545	185	100,702	<i>Articles</i> 321,995	-----
Home management.....	1,454	154	25,418	46	8,385	-----	-----
House furnishings.....	1,082	320	26,006	144	10,375	-----	-----
Home health and sanitation.....	2,077	5,410	50,509	2,352	22,182	-----	-----
Beekeeping.....	58	503	85	299	57	<i>Swarms</i> 1,030 <i>Units</i> 9,358	-----
Miscellaneous agriculture.....	169	2,060	1,194	1,274	659	11,775	-----
Miscellaneous home economics.....	1,162	2,499	21,033	1,476	11,604	-----	-----
Total.....	56,606	234,706	710,957	136,298	352,964	-----	-----

TABLE 5.—Different boys and girls in junior clubs, as reported by all extension agents, 1923 and 1924

Region and year	Enrollment			Completions			Percentage completing
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
12 Eastern States:							
1923.....	26,493	35,742	62,235	16,672	20,614	37,286	59.9
1924.....	27,928	38,553	66,481	19,420	24,710	44,130	66.4
13 Central States:							
1923.....	54,879	73,019	127,898	33,016	44,295	77,311	60.4
1924.....	69,268	96,370	165,638	46,672	62,142	108,814	65.1
12 Southern States:							
1923.....	95,104	148,288	243,392	42,178	75,920	118,098	48.5
1924.....	100,786	148,579	249,365	42,958	68,461	111,419	44.7
11 Western States:							
1923.....	10,801	14,748	25,549	7,356	9,365	16,721	65.4
1924.....	11,828	17,043	28,871	7,897	11,023	18,920	65.5
United States:							
1923.....	187,277	271,767	459,074	99,222	150,194	249,416	54.3
1924.....	209,810	300,545	510,355	116,947	166,336	283,283	55.5

TABLE 6.—Enrollment in the outstanding clubs, 1915-1924

Project	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Corn.....	55,212	54,263	53,944	61,278	7,345	35,676	34,891	33,130	35,317	31,201
Potato.....	11,796	10,754	18,825	28,516	10,790	13,845	14,773	14,889	14,427	17,545
Garden.....	123,884	108,439	223,936	364,778	215,059	108,971	77,994	71,168	62,606	88,916
Cotton.....	1,286	3,134	5,297	9,668	-----	6,674	2,840	4,116	8,830	17,142
Dairy cattle.....	-----	-----	2,968	8,994	6,350	11,307	8,709	10,847	15,381	22,197
Beef cattle.....	1,198	2,318	1,125	2,469	2,213	5,436	4,954	5,628	6,139	7,014
Sheep.....	-----	-----	-----	4,876	2,988	3,603	2,393	1,842	2,204	3,353
Hogs.....	7,355	31,240	49,858	102,972	23,623	60,191	56,847	70,687	51,611	38,320
Poultry.....	23,852	22,632	37,218	84,615	73,816	68,682	72,210	79,773	90,115	90,462
Food preservation.....	59,147	58,218	136,396	83,951	32,656	23,832	64,013	78,084	81,960	84,145
Food preparation.....	6,504	9,103	25,933	3,987	11,540	9,579	13,781	11,472	55,918	1103,653
Bread.....	10,962	14,026	16,753	18,783	8,789	8,470	9,904	35,974	38,338	-----
Clothing.....	10,074	16,942	23,637	38,239	31,419	20,228	69,897	23,990	148,407	174,002
Other clubs.....	6,301	2,523	69,571	205,944	209,210	51,302	74,814	71,250	111,255	297,693
Total.....	317,601	333,594	692,491	1,018,870	635,798	436,798	528,020	600,957	722,508	943,693

¹ No project distribution of the club enrollment by county agricultural agents in the Southern States is available for 1919, the 158,738 boys' club enrollment in the South being included under "other clubs."

² In the 1924 report form used by extension agents, bread making was combined with food preparation.

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December 1, 1927

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